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We beg leave to state that we decline to return or to enter into correspondence as to rejected communications; and to this rule we can make no exception. Manuscripts not acknowledged within four weeks are rejected.

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

Happily the King's visit to Scotland is devoid of political significance. The two days he spent in Edinburgh—not, as the Scots greatly regretted, in Holyrood itself—gave occasion for many moving pictures of historic ceremony, dating from times when Scotland, so to speak, lent her kings to England. It has also been an occasion for an allowable display of Scotch chauvinism. It is even claimed as a source of national pride that the leader of the Opposition is a Scotsman; and the list is further swelled by the names of the Prime Minister and the two Archbishops. No one will deny that Scotch pride which made the union of the countries difficult has also made it sure; and one can only wish that Irish pride worked to the same conclusion. Holyrood no doubt is associated with Royalty as is no other place outside the neighbourhood of London; but the King obeys more than historical conservatism in the visit there and to Glasgow and to Ireland. The central continuity of a kingdom is popularly explained in the welcoming of the King and this decentralisation, as it were, of the King's personal interest is a valuable stimulus to that excellent possession, the pride of local individuality.

Russian diplomacy is no doubt very acute; but its methods are curiously true to type. An aggressive act is reported by the usual channels. After an interval, during which the several nations express their opinions on the subject, comes an official explanation, apologetic in exact proportion to the indignation aroused. Within three weeks we have had two such aggressions reported and the sequent disclaimers have been thorough to the point of effusiveness. With regard to the first whatever the arithmetical truth of the nine demands made by Russia in respect of Manchuria, it is certain that some pressure was put on the Chinese Court; and in the second case whatever the exaggeration of the number of troops in the neighbourhood of Newchwang, it remains that evacuation is as far off as ever. The report of the formal reoccupation of the Newchwang port was no doubt an inference, over-precise in detail, drawn by correspondents from unusual activity in the moving of troops. But what was the cause of this activity? In Lord Cranborne's statement of the Russian answer to the "friendly" interro-

gation of our Government there is no explanation at all. It is scarcely to be doubted that the military activity was not unconnected with the demands made at Peking. Troops are the one argument against which the Chinese do not care to argue. The extraordinary susceptibility of America is a new factor in the problem, and the increase of American trade interests in China is likely to make America play the part of a most useful watchdog. She will at any rate refuse to be, and is not likely to be hoodwinked. Is she also proof against the sop?

Prince Ferdinand has returned to his territory, by what lesser diplomats may call luck, just as the most critical incident is over. The note sent by the Ottoman to the Bulgarian Government, making Bulgaria responsible for the Salonika outrages, would have been immensely difficult to answer without unpopular subserviency or dangerous dignity. Owing to the pressure of the foreign ambassadors and by a petty evasion this dilemma has been avoided. The note which was not received—in the absence of the King—has been recalled and things are understood to be as they were: Turkey has no better case for interference or Bulgaria for offence. On the whole the position is perhaps no worse, thanks to the continued organisation of the Turkish troops, whose presence has already restored quiet in the Monastir district. But the fighting in the vilayet, according to the later and more detailed accounts, was more serious than was thought. A Mohammedan attack on the Christians was apparently prompted in the first instance by a groundless fear of a counter-attack. Many Christians were killed and in restoring order the Turkish troops used considerable severity. Such an outbreak and repression must increase the bitterness in the district and lead assistance to the intrigues of the Committees; but if the Turks continue to show their present determination and, it may be said, restraint, there should be less fear of a serious conflict.

As the crisis in Morocco grows more acute the jealous sensitiveness of Europe happily decreases. A little while ago the news that the French Cabinet had decided, on the advice of the military authorities in Algeria, to take vigorous measures to repress the outrages of the tribes along the frontiers would have filled the press with warnings of French aggressiveness and ambition. On this occasion the decision has very properly been accepted as a welcome and salutary step. This activity of the tribes on the Algerian frontier (which culminated the other day in the capture of a large convoy on French territory) has increased concurrently with the advance of the rebels in other parts of Morocco. Tetuan is closely invested by the rebels and the reliefs,

sent by the Sultan are long in approaching. A Spanish and also a French vessel have failed to communicate with their consuls. The details as usual are confused and the result of a sortie is reported as a victory for both sides. Absolutely no authentic news from the interior has reached Europe.

Lord Curzon's commissions are bearing fruit. Mr. Robertson, the specialist who has been employed for a considerable time in examining the Indian railway system, has just submitted his report. Judging from the telegraphic summary so far available it suggests some reforms which are likely to excite controversy. An independent Railway Board with a president sitting on the Viceroy's Council, presumably in addition to the existing members, involves political considerations which can scarcely stop short at railways. The guarantee of a 3 per cent. sterling dividend on all new lines and the transfer to companies of the working of all lines throughout India would apparently mean a return to the earlier policy from which the railway administration in recent years has endeavoured to free itself. The conversion of all gauges to the European and American standard is a matter for expert opinion, but quicker travelling at cheaper fares is a suggested reform which all travellers can welcome. Looking at the results it has now commenced to yield, it is rather startling to find the present railway system generally condemned, even though the men who work it, and inferentially the men who created and maintain it, are exonerated.

The South African Colonisation Society, which held a meeting on Thursday under the presidency of Lord Onslow, has the official recognition of the Colonial Office and as such is admirably free from amateur excesses. Last year the Society sent out 1,363 women, for all of whom definite work, mostly as servants, was first found. They were selected from over 6,000 applicants and all, with the exception of 3 per cent., have made a successful start. It is significant of many openings for women in the new colonies that most of those who went out to the concentration camps—where they did invaluable work—have stayed behind in the country; and it may be said that they have done much more than any other class to reduce the intense animosity of the Boer women. Similarly many soldiers left the army and remained to take up work in the country. They too have been successful; but a large number of them have put all their capital into their undertakings and are at present unable to pay for the passage of their wives and children from England. As these men have left the army, they are of course beyond the parental care of the War Office.

Lord Selborne cannot be congratulated on the defence of his memorandum. He has a strong case for the action he has taken, but will soon ruin it if allowed rope enough. One of his remarks suggests a riddle, When is a soldier not a soldier? According to Lord Selborne, when he is a marine; we sympathise with the marine's feelings on learning the reply. Putting extremists aside, the memorandum has met with general approval from moderate men, because it was understood there could be no exchange of duty between deck and engine-room. Now we have the First Lord telling us that he hopes and believes this new scheme will end in amalgamation. If this is to be the ultimate result, a captain of one of His Majesty's ships will hardly feel safe when he goes below in leaving an inexperienced officer to take charge on the bridge. Sir John Fisher has expressed his opinion that the battle of the future will be an admirals' battle. We hope some international arrangement may be arrived at before that battle happens, so that it may be ruled illegal for "tactical" admirals—we are indebted for the adjective to Mr. Bellairs—to engage engineer admirals when found on the high seas. In the debate on the Estimates on Thursday the memorandum was not touched upon, an indication perhaps that the House, as Mr. Arnold Forster suggested, confessed its ignorance. The attempt to show that the "Two Powers standard" had been exceeded in the new programme scarcely needed an answer.

Mr. Balfour's answer to the deputation on the corn-tax was an astounding confession of the policy of time-serving. The tax, he said, was a good one. It had been put on with a view to widening the basis of taxation. Much had been expected of this beginning by the Government. He himself, a firm believer in the excellence of the tax, was not a hidebound free-trader; and he unconsciously echoed a remarkable speech of Lord Salisbury when he suggested the possible necessity of retaliatory measures in the future. Lord Salisbury foresaw a war of tariffs and regretted that we had thrown away our weapons; Mr. Balfour looked to a time when we could no longer continue to be a target for the nations. In the face of this confession of faith he concluded with the amazing assertion that it had been "conclusively proved" that the country would not accept this silent advance to Protection. Therefore the tax must go, until some national crisis or vital change in fiscal policy recalled it. The charm of the speech, the ingenuous candour of the confession, the dialectic skill with which the minor points were made, all failed to diminish the bare fact that Mr. Balfour took the usual criticism of the random politician for a popular outcry; and was afraid of it.

The figures which Lord Welby as chairman of the Finance Committee explained to the London County Council on Tuesday have alarmed many people who cannot appreciate the immense extent of the work of the Council. Twelve years ago the expenditure was just over £2,000,000. The estimate for the coming year is £4,703,270, and the rate has increased to 16*1/2d*. A figure at the first sight yet more alarming is represented by the increase of the debt. Last March it amounted to more than forty-eight and a half millions or 123 per cent. of the annual rateable value. But though Lord Welby laid full emphasis on the meaning of this increase, the estimates were passed with the minimum of discussion and on the whole the speakers were optimistic about the finances of the Council. Even Lord Welby claimed that the Council set a wholesome lesson to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and to Parliament and that the progress of their debt has not been inconsistent with sound finance. In comparison with provincial towns, London came out well, and yet better in comparison with Paris; and it was a fair question to ask if £75,000,000, at which he estimated municipal expenditure in England, was an unreasonable insurance against ignorance, poverty, crime and discontent.

The expenditure must be compared with the work. Two departments on which there is a great increase are fire brigades and lunatic asylums. How many of the people who attacked the County Council for the parsimony which was responsible for the disastrous fire at Colney Hatch and for the loss of life in the City fires are now grumbling at a penny farthing increase in the rates, intended to make the asylums safe and habitable and the fire brigades efficient? Nevertheless the annual expenditure and the debt cannot with safety continue to increase at the present rate; and Lord Welby suggested that it would be well for the State to fix a limit to the power of municipal borrowing and to enable the Local Government Board to issue, if necessary, cautions to the local authority. Some interesting figures were given of the probable relief to the rates from the profits of municipal tramways. As to prospects of the near future the most serious feature is that the sum allowed to the relief of the rates from the Exchequer would soon have entirely disappeared in the payment of the police and other statutory grants over which the Council had no control.

Mr. Gerald Balfour on the Port of London Bill confessed to the same sweet reasonableness as Mr. Wyndham on the Irish Bill. Both agreed to keep an absolutely open mind on the question of the amendment of details in the Committee stage; and in both cases the general acceptance of the Bill on the second reading solely involved agreement with the root principle. The principle to which the House pledged itself on Thursday was simply that the Port of London, having failed to keep up entirely with the stream of competition or the bare needs of the shipping, must be handed over

to one authority. The Port of London is still the great centre of dispersion for Europe, the "entrepot of the world", as it was long ago called; and if its facilities do not justify its pre-eminence it will defer, not to other English towns, as half the criticism implies, but to Dutch harbours.

The composition of the new authority will give endless scope for amateur suggestions, but the chief opponents of the Bill on the second reading argued with extrinsic and belated conservatism in objecting to the large representation from the L.C.C. on the ground of the peril from municipal and social development. Happily Mr. Morgan, who chiefly advertised this bogey, was pulled up by the Speaker for reading his speech; and the fulness of his heart was not sufficient to enable him to continue speaking without the manuscript. The chief point is whether it will be necessary for the new organisation to have the security of the rates. A powerful amalgamation of City men disagreed lately with the Royal Commission. It may be possible to provide sufficient funds from dues and rents, but it would be folly to damage the success of this vital reformation from any fear of increasing the ratepayer's burdens.

The M.P.'s arrangements for getting off his speeches effectively are, like a lady's honour, a delicate matter. It is not nice to pry into them, though we have seen the curious cast a furtive eye on important fortifications of papers, notes and hat, behind which he works; and it is shrewdly believed sometimes that hid in the midst of these fortifications is the actual speech written out from beginning to end. When the thing is deftly engineered in this way, no Speaker obviously would interfere, for that would be fussy. But it is another thing when the M.P., naked and honest, holds up his speech and recites it. Lord Cranborne's appeal to the Speaker when Mr. Michael Davitt did this may be recalled. Mr. Peel's attitude, however, on that occasion was, rightly we think, one of leniency—for Mr. Davitt was such a very interesting figure, and he read so gracefully. Mr. W. H. Smith, we believe, made a rule of writing out fully all his important speeches, and then of learning them by heart: his difficulty being increased by the fact that he had a poor memory. We see it stated that the Speaker objects to the habit of Front Benchers putting their feet on the table. Two Cabinet Ministers are known to be special sinners in this respect. Palmerston never showed by such means how bored he was. He would sit for hours in the same attitude through weary speeches, his eyes always open and fixed upon a certain point on the side of the Treasury table.

Of the names mentioned for the Board of Agriculture the Earl of Onslow is at present favourite. He has been an under-secretary for many years, and certainly his turn for promotion has come, if it is to come at all. The party game requires that a man should move on at a certain stage, or drop out. Lord Onslow would not claim any technical fitness for agricultural labour, but he may fairly be summed up as a competent all-round man. As a speaker he is more than competent. Agriculture will do much better with a good all-round man, who does not pretend to be a specialist, than with one who because he has farmed a few acres himself thinks he has bottomed agricultural science or with another who having read a few books on chemistry thinks himself competent to teach every practical farmer his business.

On Wednesday Mr. Justice Byrne gave his long-deferred judgment in the case of Cavendish v. Strutt. Without entirely adopting the view that the plaintiff was as big a fool as he tried to make himself appear, the judge held that the young man had in reality been so absolutely silly all his life long that when it came to making a voluntary settlement by which he denuded himself of the management of his property, he ought to have had independent advice. Such advice Major Strutt and his family party did not supply him with, nor even Mr. Cavendish's lawyer who took his instructions through Major Strutt with quite innocent facility. The judge ordered the settlement to be set aside and con-

demned Major Strutt and Dr. Ranger, Mr. Cavendish's solicitor, to pay the costs of the action. He did not believe that the "spooks" had much effect in influencing the actions of Mr. Cavendish, who submitted to everybody who would save him trouble till he had another whim, and then threw them over. It was his wife's shrewdness that saved the sum of about £34,000, the remnant of a fortune of about a quarter of a million. Even Major Strutt saved him from himself or it would all have gone.

Mr. Justice Ridley has been unfortunate in having had two of his interpretations of the law upset in one week by the Court of Appeal. In *McQuire v. "Western Morning News"* he allowed the jury to decide whether an obviously honest piece of dramatic criticism was reasonable in their opinion. As if a jury's functions were to judge criticism. The Court of Appeal held that unless there was evidence of malice or animus the Judge ought to withdraw the case from them altogether and give judgment for the defendant. This decision places the rights of free criticism on a sound basis. In *Boucas v. Cooke* Mr. Justice Ridley held that a photographer, although he is paid for a photograph, is entitled if he does not sell the negative to the sitter to restrain him from reproducing the photograph himself. The Court of Appeal held that when a person pays for his photograph he can do what he likes with it. Thus "Jack Cooke the Boy Preacher" of Mile End Road can gratify his admirers with pictures of himself, at a price, without the photographer claiming a share in the profits.

The passing of Clifford's Inn, as it has done this week, into the hands of the builder is on all grounds a matter for regret. It was sold for £100,000, and we suppose we have only to expect that before long this ancient and picturesque site will be covered with business premises and lose all the distinction that it has so long possessed. The Inn and its Hall have lately been of special interest on account of an exhibition of pictures, drawings, etchings and statuary by Mr. Selwyn Image, Mr. Frank Brangwyn and others which has been held there.

Parliament, Convocation, and the House of Laymen have all chattered this week on Church Discipline. It is clear that the Primate, his Vicar-General and his Dean of Arches all mean business. Neither Low nor High however, we think, sees what is intended. On the one hand the Parliamentary opposition are furious at the idea of any augmentation of the episcopal powers: on the other the House of Laymen are sympathetic with an increase of the political jurisdiction of the Bishop. What neither side sees is that under an Episcopate terrified by Protestant brawlers, High Churchmen would be in graver peril from the episcopal monitions to be issued under Mr. Cripps' measure than from the citations that would flow from Mr. Austin Taylor's Bill. On general grounds something may be said for Mr. Cripps' proposals: but the danger is (a point to which we draw Lord Hugh Cecil's attention) that in practice the monitions would be decided not by the Father in God but by the layman who is known as the Diocesan Chancellor. In these circumstances it would be fatuous on the part of Churchmen to allow any interference with the right of the incriminated cleric to appeal to the King's Bench for a mandamus or prohibition against any improper exercise of the episcopal prerogative. With this its sting removed Mr. Cripps' Bill might not do much harm, but while the Privy Council's jurisdiction remains, there will be no true peace of the Church.

The correspondence over Lord Kelvin's statement that science must admit a "creative directive power different from physical, dynamical and electric forces" rather unpleasantly suggests that Lord Reay's description of Lord Kelvin as a "Prince of Science" has displeased the other men of science. Jealousy of the physicist venturing into the domain of the biologist has certainly something to do with it. But whether Lord Kelvin is right in ascribing to biologists a prevalent belief in a "vital principle" other than physical and chemical laws is disputable. Even if

science should as its last step reduce all phenomena to these laws, it will still be permissible to say as Lord Kelvin has really done "laws imply a lawgiver". It is true none of the sciences proves it any more than they disprove it. Lord Kelvin for the time being was metaphysicising; and when the others object, they are either objecting to metaphysics or holding a contrary metaphysical doctrine. They have all taken a step beyond "science". The assertion that Lord Kelvin's statement "sweeps away Darwin" is only the assertion of a particular school of biologists, as Sir W. T. Thiselton Dyer himself shows, and the name of Wallace reminds us. Darwin was never sure as to the interpretation of his own theory.

Mr. Carnegie has been again proving during the week that millions of money qualify their possessor or distributor to put the world right on any class of subject. He prophesied one day that Europe would soon be amalgamated as were the United States, and added that it was "perfectly ridiculous that a nation of the size only of France or Germany . . . not to mention our own little island, should think it ever would amount to much materially". But Mr. Carnegie as advertiser of the States was as nothing to Mr. Carnegie as the advertiser—for a consideration—of Mr. Passmore Edwards. Mr. Passmore Edwards says Mr. Carnegie is "a citizen of ages yet to come". Mr. Carnegie said Mr. Passmore Edwards in an older age would have been "canonised". The laudation is enough, in the aptness of the common phrase, "to make a saint swear". Why should people, apparently endowed by nature with generous instincts, so indulge in advertisement of their own generosity that they reduce themselves to the level of patent medicines? Can millionaires really cure all the ills that flesh is heir to?

Attention in stock markets this week was devoted chiefly to the arrangement of the account, and new business was on a small scale. The tone, however, was fairly good in most departments but the Kaffir section was exceptionally weak. The official rate of discount was maintained, and a reduction could hardly be expected in view of the Bank statement issued. The number of applications received for the Transvaal loan amounted to 115,400 representing a total of £1,174,000,000. A good deal of dissatisfaction was felt at the decision of the Bank of England to disregard all applications for under £2,000 Stock, but it was obviously an extremely difficult task to distinguish between the premium hunter and the genuine investor, and taking everything into consideration the course pursued was probably the best. The Bank of England announces that, beginning with the larger amounts and working downwards, letters to the unsuccessful applicants, returning the amount of the deposit paid, will be posted with all possible dispatch. In view, however, of the very large number concerned several days must necessarily elapse before the last of the applicants can be dealt with.

The Crown Agents for the Colonies have received instructions to notify to the bondholders of the Five per Cent. loan of £2,500,000 of the late South African Republic of 1892 that the principal of the amount secured by the Bonds will be paid off on 15 August next, at par, with accrued interest, less income-tax; from that date all interest on the Bonds will cease and determine. Although Home Railway traffics were all good the prices of the Ordinary stocks, with few exceptions, moved within narrow limits, but there is still a demand for Preference, Guaranteed and Debenture stocks. Business in American Rails has been almost at a standstill, and fears of labour troubles on the other side tended to depress the market. Various reasons have been given for the decline in South Africans, and rumours of financial difficulties in Johannesburg and the serious illness of a leading financier have been current, though quite unconfirmed. The liquidation which has taken place during the past few days in this market, and which has resulted in a somewhat heavy fall in prices, is probably entirely on the part of tired holders, and buying by the big houses is noticeable at the lower quotations. Consols 92 $\frac{1}{2}$. Bank rate 4 per cent. (2 October).

RUSSIAN REALITIES AND GERMAN BOGEYS.

WHATEVER ingenuity and special pleading can effect, our Germanophobes have brought to bear on their case. Yet the second part of their propaganda at any rate cannot commend itself to the public. Their failure is due to their client. When Sir Charles Russell appeared for an erring wife in the Divorce Court he insisted that the lady should be habited as befitted the occasion: "she should at least appear to be sorry". Now, most unfortunately for the amateur diplomatists who are all for a "general understanding" with Russia, their client persists on assuming a compromising attitude just when, to suit their argumentative campaign, she should be exhibiting contrition and a strong desire to make amends. In such circumstances the only line for the advocate is to bully the jury, to upbraid them for their insularity and narrow-mindedness and to point out that if Russia be tricky, she is not the only tricky State we have to do with and that with a definite policy we can bring her to a definite understanding.

Without entering into general criticism of this argument and pointing out its futility by reason of the contradiction implied in its two terms, we would rather consider the proposition that a general arrangement with Russia can be obtained, or, as the most vehement of anti-German scribes has it in a monthly review, "a comprehensive arrangement in Asia and South-Eastern Europe with the Empire of the Tsars". In the first place all diplomatists are well aware that these sweeping settlements of world interests only exist in the "uninformed imagination" of the publicist. When they have come into existence it has been after great wars, when there has been something to divide. Other nations will only tolerate a Treaty of Tilsit when they have undergone the tragedies of a Wagram and a Friedland. Such a "comprehensive arrangement" with the Tsar's Government would be so sweeping that it would be impossible to enter into it without bitterly offending other nations with whom we are and wish to remain on the best of terms. No such agreement would be "comprehensive" unless it involved a promise by Russia not to assist France in certain contingencies and by ourselves to refrain in others from backing Japan. We do not know if it be suggested that we should cut our coat to match our cloth to the extent of paying as little respect to promises as the other party to the grandiose agreement proposed, but we are sure that, while it is eminently desirable we should have a definite policy and abide by it, we are not likely to gain anything by alienating other Powers to please Russia.

The fact is that these suggestions are only half-hearted. They do not emanate from quarters which have any real fellow-feeling for Russian methods and they are only made because they involve hostility to Germany. Because Germany, owing to her Continental position, regards Russia with terror and suspicion it is believed that England, could she make friends with Russia, might always be able to laugh at German "threats" and "intrigues" or, perhaps, to threaten that Power. It is amusing to note that what we are asked to accept as the traditional policy of one party we are bidden to resent and suspect in the other. Russia may steal New-chwang while Germany must not look over the Monroe hedge at Venezuela or the Rio Grande. If we eliminate the arguments drawn from the writings of German professors or the ravings of the "ink-beasts" who supply the daily press of Berlin with diatribes against ourselves, we shall find that German policy compares very favourably with that of Russia. Our own under Lord Granville had much to answer for in the hostility of the German Colonial party.

Unfortunately the British press is never really happy unless it has a bogey to make the flesh creep. At one time it was France, at another Russia, now it is Germany. We are not sure that the last is not the most attenuated bogey of all. Her interests are ultimately ours, world-wide trade and open ports. No merchant vessels can enter her harbours without running the gauntlet for hundreds of miles up the British coasts, she is in a most precarious situation in Europe,

she has definitely made a bid for the trade of the Near and Middle East and that involves the gravest suspicion in S. Petersburg. Nothing can obviate that danger. Witness the delight of the Russian journals at our withdrawal from the Baghdad railway scheme. The notion that Germany is to embark on the enterprise of conquering and appropriating our colonies is surely too ridiculous to be advanced with success even by our Germanophobes. The cry of " perfide Allemagne " has just as much and little foundation as that of " perfide Albion " for which a good case might have been made out in the eighteenth century. A working arrangement with Germany would not be absurd. We must import suspicion and national ill-feeling at the outset to make it so.

With Russia the matter is different. Our interests do not coalesce. They diverge. At the present moment we have three grave causes for disagreement, in China, in Afghanistan and in Persia. Do our advocates of a "comprehensive agreement" desire to meet Russia's demand for a representative at Kabul? If not, do they think that there is the slightest chance of their hypothetical compact ever coming about? If such a concession were not made by us, then no agreement would stand in the way of Russia working for it just as much after the treaty as before. The concession of a port in the Persian Gulf would ultimately mean the rise of a strongly fortified dockyard in those waters. What that would involve in scares and consequent expenditure every experienced Anglo-Indian knows. Russian trade policy in Persia and China has been made clear enough. We are not attacking it. M. de Witte is the best judge of its necessity in the circumstances of his country and no treaty will for long prevent the development of his gigantic experiment to organise all Russian industry and trade on a basis of State socialism. The methods employed in all these cases will be the old and familiar ones. Vigorous resistance will probably lead to a temporary withdrawal from the contested position but the attempt will not therefore be abandoned. Journalistic reports of an alarmist nature are useful as tending to gauge the quality and amount of resistance to be expected as in the case of New-chwang. It is ridiculous to abuse Russia because she pursues her aims by methods which have become traditional. Her ideas of diplomacy are rather Oriental than European and the training of her diplomats is alien from our own. That is no reason why we should abandon the game in despair or on the other hand dream of impracticable settlements. But in estimating our capacity for resistance we must not be misled into counting on American help. The interests of the United States in the matters in question are purely commercial while ours are mainly political and only secondarily concerned with trade. They are confronted with Russia only in one corner of Asia; we are called upon to meet her in at least three parts of that continent. Consequently American opposition could be bought off by trade concessions which would not in any way settle our differences with Russia or those of Japan. It is as well to curb our imaginations as to our resources for resisting Russia no less than as to the facilities for "comprehensive arrangements". Treaties never bind any Power for long (least of all Russia) when she finds her interests suffer by them, and it is difficult to understand what we can offer that should induce her to abandon her well-tried methods. At all events we have to thank her policy for a timely exposure of her would-be friends and their fantasies.

THE POPCORN DUTY.

WHEN Mr. Ritchie announced that fourpence was to be taken off the income-tax and the new corn duty, which may henceforth be known as the popping on and off duty, was to be abolished everybody, Government supporters and Opposition alike, exclaimed at once What a capital electioneering budget! There was naturally in the first flush of the announcement jubilation amongst ministerialists and vexation amongst the Opposition. Ministerialists forgot that last year they were for the corn duty not as a temporary tax but as a step towards extending the system of indirect taxation,

or as Mr. Balfour calls it widening the basis of our fiscal system. If any of them did remember it was those only who had regarded the duty as a first step towards taxation for other than mere revenue purposes; and were in favour of it either for the domestic object of protecting agriculture here, or of making possible the introduction of preferential duties in favour of our colonies. The Opposition did not forget how the duty was introduced. They saw that the Government had abandoned its new principles of finance tentatively introduced last year. Mr. Balfour by his answer to yesterday's deputation has now formally admitted that the electioneering diagnosis of the Budget was strictly correct. He is all in favour of the corn duty but is afraid of "the tastes, habits, and prejudices" of the country.

But, if Government finance is electioneering, undisguised electioneering is not finance; and we care very much less that the Government should win the next election than that we should obtain a necessary reform of our system of taxation. There can be no doubt that last year the corn duty was proposed as an initial step in widening the basis of taxation. It was not to be a temporary tax. That was the accepted premiss by everybody. The Opposition denounced it as such; and the Government not only did not deny it but defended it on that ground. Mr. Balfour still maintains that [view of the duty and can hardly find strong enough words in which to praise it. The Opposition also denounced it as an attempt to introduce Protection. Courage failed the Government at this point and we cannot say that they admitted the impeachment. Now indeed Mr. Balfour makes the ingenious discovery, which was carefully kept back at the time, that it has turned out to be a measure of protection and if the Government had known it the duty would not have been imposed. Moreover he finds, though we do not know where the proof is, that the duty could not survive as an independent tax and could only have a chance if associated with some great change in national policy. This sophistical talk may be clever; but its insincerity is too obvious. Mr. Balfour has admitted that the remission of the corn duty was an election move; it is idle for him to attempt to show that it is also an honest one.

There is very little sense in it even as electioneering. Mr. Balfour argued when the duty was imposed that it would not increase the burden in prices to the consumer. Experience has shown that he was right. Then, giving the go-by to the sound fiscal reasons for imposing the tax, which it had been shown could be levied without the consumer having to pay it, he argued that there must necessarily be a burden from the tax which it would be a boon to take off. But at any rate as far as the consumer is concerned there has been no burden. Mr. Balfour said in effect there is no burden and then proceeds with great demonstrations of benevolence to take it off! That is the flourish with which the Government is to fascinate the people at the elections. If the burden of the duty has fallen on anybody, it is somebody who either does not feel it or is not disposed to cry out. It is not the consumer, meaning by that the poorer classes. Whether it is true that four shillings only would have to be imposed before its effect would be felt on retail prices may be somewhat doubtful; but at least we might have waited to see on whom the burden was falling before we made believe to hurry to the bearer's assistance. Nobody can give a reasonable explanation why tea should be taxed and not corn. The one usually given is that a corn duty may be used for protective and not merely revenue purposes. It may, but there is no essential reason why it should; though it is an additional advantage that it can. If it is so used, as we hold it may and ought to be, for imperial purposes, the benefit of having a wider system of taxation is that some or all of the amount of the corn duty which exceeds the strictly revenue requirements can be reimbursed to the taxpayer by taking it off some other article, say tea. A small remission of duty on this has a remarkable effect in lowering prices to the poorer consumer, as the history of the tea duty has shown.

There is a limit to direct taxation not only in the

sources from which it is raised but in the fact that if it becomes too burdensome, as the income-tax threatened to be, people will be set on finding out ways to conceal their property and make false returns more than is done in ordinary circumstances, just as too heavy Customs duties would encourage smuggling. Theoretical distinctions between taxing one kind of property or another are vain, and experience is the only guide. The man who bars every extension of indirect taxation on principle is as wrong-headed as the man who should restrict his diet to beef, and never allow mutton to appear on his table; or the man who will persist on principle in vegetarianism though it is starving him. In this as in other matters the middle way is safest. We have relied too much on direct taxation and income-tax only because our well-to-do classes have been more willing to submit to it than similar classes on the Continent; though in Prussia there is an income-tax which is assessed even on very small incomes. But what are called protective duties are largely levied because of the difficulty of assessing property and incomes directly. The Octroi duties are an instance of raising indirect contributions where we should rely on the direct method. Though there is this recourse to indirect taxation the tendency now on the Continent is to endeavour to widen the basis so as to include a tax like our income-tax. We have to take the opposite course because our system has neglected the indirect and fostered the direct method of taxation. But the necessity for alteration depends on the same needs in both cases. In these days the extension of Government agency, and the consequent increase of national expenditure, demands that more revenue shall be raised; and the sources of revenue cannot be allowed to be dried up for any theory as to the respective merits of direct and indirect taxation. They will both have to be utilised *talis qualis* whatever their merits may be, and their respective boundaries determined through practical experience interpreted by statesmen who are not committed to any school and especially are not electioneers. To demand a revenue system which cuts down indirect taxation to its lowest possible point, for free breakfast-table crotches and the like, is only rational in the case of doctrinaire Radicals who still hold to the belief that for Government to do as little as possible is the best of all methods of government; or in the case of unintelligent Conservatives in the same galley. But Conservatives and Radicals who know that the sphere of government will not be restricted but extended in the future must ask themselves where the money is coming from. If the Radicals whisper "by putting on the screw on property and big incomes" they do not take account of the middle classes and propertied men in their own party who would not stand the pressure in office whatever they may say in opposition. Are they a sufficiently revolutionary party to declare their intention of paying for all the extras by direct taxation? They are not and they know it; and they will have to take the safe middle way of distributing their proposed burdens over more numerous backs.

THE LONDON MEMBERS.

THIS is not an education article. We are constrained to give this notice, for we know that the cursory skim, which always precedes reading, would almost certainly pass the article over, were it thought to be about education. Even readers of the SATURDAY REVIEW are not likely to be wholly innocent of the repulsion which the whole subject of national education inspires in nine Englishmen out of ten; and we should like this article to be digested by more than the odd tenth reader. We do not know that the London members are a particularly inviting subject either, but they are less repellent than education, a calculation some of them seem to have made carefully and acted on. Yet the one suggests the other, for it is impossible to get away at this moment either from London education or the London members; the situation is becoming too serious and scandalous. The Government Bill has in it the germs of real educational progress, and it stands to be spoilt, to be made a grotesque parody of reform, by the absurd constitution of the

central authority. As proposed it is enormously too big, and quite irrational in its constituents. At a glance anyone can see that the borough councils have no right whatever on the central committee, which is an authority for all London. The County Council, a popularly elected body representing all London for metropolitan as against local or borough purposes, naturally supplies this central committee plus an infusion of experts—the larger the infusion the better. But what business have the borough councils there? They exist for local not for metropolitan purposes; the central authority is to exist for metropolitan purposes not local. It would be just as sensible to put County Councillors on the borough committees as to put borough councillors on the Central Committee. In truth this feature cannot fit in with the whole scheme of the Bill. Obviously it is not the Government plan. The borough councillors were pitched in to conciliate somebody. Whom? There we have it. The London Unionist members. It is not too much to say that when there is any London measure on the stocks, the London members usually prevent it being a good one.

We are aware, as we are glad, that not every London member wants to retain the borough councillors. Mr. W. F. D. Smith, their chairman, does not; Mr. Whitmore, their secretary, does not; and a few others. But the mass care as much for the inclusion of the borough men as they care little for education. Indeed it is the only thing in the Bill they do care about; and, perhaps, it would not be very fair to expect them to have any great concern for what they cannot understand. Sir Blundell Maple, Sir George Fardell, and the rest of suburbia's chivalry have been too strong for the Government. Left to themselves, the Board of Education would have produced a good Bill enough; but the Government, not unnaturally, did not relish the idea of twenty or thirty London members voting against them. To follow the line you know to be best and take the consequences is of course difficult in politics. It requires much strength of character to do it. This Government would certainly do nothing of the sort. The latest plan of grouping the boroughs is even less rational than the first. Local representation is the only conceivable claim the boroughs have for representation on the central committee. Grouped they cease to be local.

We do not deny that the Government are in a difficult position. This is a London matter; they want to know the mind of Londoners. Naturally they turn to their Parliamentary representatives: some of them say the people want the County Council to be supreme; others, and far the more, say the people, at any rate Unionist London, is against giving the L.C.C. a shred more power and is all for the borough councils. It is difficult for Ministers to judge; and not less so that not one of them, with the possible exception of Mr. Ritchie, has any real knowledge of London and its people. British ministries know extremely little of the mind and moods of the people of London. Mr. Gladstone, abhorring what he did not know, openly admitted his disregard of London; in fact raised it to the level of a political doctrine. Lord Rosebery, on the other hand, has been very closely in touch with London, which, were he really a man of action, would give him power he has never yet enjoyed. Conservative ministries are out of touch with London from other than political causes. With most of them their antecedents and habit of life prevent their understanding the vast mass, educated and labouring, who live in London. Ministers' homes are not in London and they know it only as the venue of Parliament and Society. Few of them have ever taken the trouble to study the London population as a social and political problem. Even Lord Randolph Churchill did not. Lord Rosebery, as we have said, did. Consequently Ministers are unable to discriminate in a matter of evidence of the feeling and wishes of London. They accepted the somewhat stupid middle-class members' view of the position. They were not able to see why these members took the view they did. They were told that all the Conservative associations were in favour of the borough councils; all their leading constituents were in favour of them. No doubt: but one who knew London and its politics would have known that that was tantamount to £30,000,000 of the London brain there were investors to say, wanted to be in Britain, thing which applied to another. Most of them ho

mount to saying that the better people, and in fact the real bulk of the electors, took the other view. It is a striking fact in London that political associations are never representative; the best men despise local politics and the average man has neither time nor taste for them. And so it comes about that it is just the type of man to whom it is worth while to aspire for the honours of a borough council who will take the trouble to be prominent in local politics. Usually this is an inferior type; perhaps most often of the small tradesman class. No intelligent London member, Radical or Conservative, is guided much by his local political association: he looks beyond it to the people themselves. Members do not say so on a platform, naturally, but the intelligent among them know it.

This quality, the inferiority of local political associations in London, goes far also to account for the calibre of the London members. A little ring of little men with axes to grind will like a man somewhat of its own kind. It will not take easily to the higher type of candidate. A first-rate man has not a very comfortable time with his local organisation in London. No one will question, at least no one does question, that the London Unionist members as a body are a singularly ineffectual group. It contains a few very able men; but unfortunately when a London member is distinguished for anything, that thing is seldom connected with London. Lord Percy is one of the ablest men in the House, Lord Hugh Cecil perhaps the ablest, certainly the most remarkable; but neither is identified with a single London interest, saving his seat in Parliament. It has long been so. Lord Randolph Churchill had nothing to do with London, Mr. Goschen nothing; each kept a safe London seat. And if the exceptional men amongst the London members do nothing for London, the ruck necessarily cannot. They have not the capacity. There are exceptions, of course: there are one or two amongst both Conservatives and Radicals who have ability and energy and use them for London. It would be invidious to mention names, but printed at length their names would hardly fill four lines. We know we are right in this estimate of the London members, for it is their own testimony of themselves, or rather of each other, and our observation agrees with it. You can never get a London member alone but he enlarges to you feelingly on "the rottenness of the London members". If we had the heart to print verbatim, side by side over the speakers' names, the opinions of the London Unionist members collectively and individually that we ourselves have heard expressed by members of that collection, we should produce undeniably good "copy", but we do not care to figure in an endless series of cross actions for slander.

THE NEW LOAN.

THE figures of the subscription to the new Transvaal loan were sufficiently sensational, and to the outsider almost incredible. The Bank of England, authorised by the Government, invited subscriptions to a loan of £30,000,000 at par with 3 per cent. interest. Applications were received for £1,174,000,000, or, roughly speaking, thirty-nine times the amount offered. Applicants had to enclose a cheque for 3 per cent. of the amount asked for, and the application money totted up to £35,000,000, or £5,000,000 more than the capital of the loan. These amounts are enough to make the brain reel, and to the uninitiated it might appear as if there was literally no bottom to the purse of the British investor. Had the applications been genuine, that is to say, had the applicants asked for as much as they wanted to get and were prepared to pay for, the result would indeed have been a stupendous indication of Britain's wealth. But, as a matter of fact, the whole thing was a huge gamble in premiums, and most of the applicants would have been ruined had they been allotted what they applied for, and, for some reason or another, been unable to resell their scrip in the market. Most people applied for twenty times as much as they hoped or expected to get. Thus a man who

wanted £5,000 applied for £100,000, sending his cheque for £3,000. As a decided preference was shown in the last war loan issue for what was supposed to be "the small and bona fide investor" a good many speculators hit upon the happy idea of multiplying under false or nominees' names applications for £100. Thus a man would with the assistance of his clerks and friends send in thirty separate applications for £100. We do not know what are the exact relations in the issue of a loan between the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the big officials at the Treasury on the one side and the Governor and the directors of the Bank of England on the other. We presume that there is consultation and give-and-take action between Downing Street and Threadneedle Street. However that may be, we think that the Government and the Bank authorities acted very wisely in dealing with the applications for the loan. Gambling in premiums they could not prevent, if they would, nor would they have been wise to do so, if they could. For it is the speculation that makes a loan issue successful. Were it not for the desire to sell at £101 17s. 6d. what you have bought for £100, a loan would fall to a discount, and be a failure. But the financial Olympians rightly decided to ignore the small premium hunter. It is little less than a farce that the whole machinery of the Bank should be employed for the purpose of allotting £100 to Jones, who puts 30s. into his pocket by reselling it the next minute. The Bank authorities therefore decided to reject all applications for less than £2,000, to allot 2 1/2 per cent. of the application, and to allot no one less than £100. Thus a man who applied for £100,000 got £2,600, and there would be some nice arithmetical adjustments round about an application for £4,500. On the whole, we think everyone is satisfied, except the small premium hunter or "stag", as he is called in the City, who has been masquerading for some years past as the bona fide investor. This loan business has been the topic of the week and has quite eclipsed social and political interests. From the really important side of the question, namely, our financial credit, it is a subject of congratulation. After a war of nearly three years' duration, when over £200,000,000 had been borrowed and additional taxes paid, it is something to find that the application money exceeds the total amount of the loan. It is not every capital in the world that could produce £35,000,000 in twenty-four hours. Say that a quarter of the applications were genuine: that means a sum of over £293,000,000, or nine times the amount asked for by the Government. Had this taken place at the beginning of the war, it would not have been so gratifying. But war is generally regarded as an exhaustive process. It is impossible however to say now that Great Britain has been crippled in any way by her reconquest of South Africa. The less agreeable side of the picture is the wild and insensate spirit of gambling which it revealed. We have often expressed our view that speculation is one of the qualities of an imperial race, and that the French and Germans will never extend their empires because they will not take any risks. But the clerks of Peckham and Islington should be warned off "la haute finance", and we cannot be sorry for their discomfiture by the bigwigs. In our opinion this new Transvaal loan will go considerably higher, ultimately, that is, when the speculation has subsided, and the stag has drunk his fill. The loan is secured on the resources of the Transvaal, one of the richest countries in the world, and is guaranteed by the Imperial Government. There is a sentimental attachment irrespective of yield to "the sweet simplicity of three per cent.", and nothing was so unpopular as the reduction of interest on our Consols. We should not be surprised to see this Transvaal loan standing at 103 or 104 before many years are passed.

THE ANCIENT TOWN OF RYE.

IT is not recorded that in mediæval times the Commons of England ever went round, excursion fashion, to view the defences of the kingdom, for that was the King's business; but they now seem to be performing this neglected task, somewhat late in the day

perhaps, under the guise of the Annual Parliamentary Golf Handicap. Our golfing legislators have already visited the Ports of Sandwich, New Romney and Deal, and to-day go to the Ancient Town of Rye which once shared with them the duty of watch and ward in the Narrow Seas and now participates in the honour of providing the best golf in the South of England. There are those who decry golf at Rye as cramped and difficult, but its lovers would not exchange its intricate individuality for either the mighty sweeps of Sandwich or the wide flats of Littlestone. In this preference Rye itself may count for something, for though the golfer in the ardour of his pursuit looks at little but turf and bunkers, there are times when the subliminal self will assert itself; as the Scots caddie scornfully remarked "It's gey fine scenery when you're three up and four to play"; and neither Sandwich nor Littlestone, which have been emphatically described as "holes", can hope to rival the view from the links of Rye set on its seaward-looking rock with its roofs rose-red in the evening sunshine. The wise golfer also, limiting himself to two rounds a day lest staleness should ensue, has still some fringes and waste edges of time between the serious business of the day and the dinner and bridge that follow, these he can most pleasantly fill by exploring the tortuous cobble-stoned streets from the Land Gate, astride the neck which was once the only access to Rye to the ramparts above the Strand, whence he looks across to the answering height of Winchelsea amid its trees and the cliffs of Fairlight beyond. The church is set in a little cluster of trees in the heart of the old town, its Norman arches, still bearing traces of the sack and burning which were more than once the lot of Rye, possess both beauty and dignity, while an element of the bizarre is supplied by the clock, whose great pendulum solemnly swings beneath the transept arch and controls the two mannikins who beat the hours aloft on the squat tower outside. For other days there is the Ypres Tower of the same epoch as the Land Gate, or among the many old houses that cheery hostelry the old Mermaid Inn, or the Grammar School with its fantastic brick façade, where Thackeray's Denis Duval went to school, boarding meanwhile with Elder Rudge the grocer, whom we have always liked to imagine living at the shop carrying the little sundial with old Time's scythe for a gnomon. But, whether in search of the picturesque or not, our imaginary golfer will find himself every morning as he fares to his daily round for a few moments on the edge of the cliff with the great green expanse of the Marsh spread out before him; at his feet are the meadows where once the King's ships lay, while the curving river forms a shining sun road past the little cluster of masts at the harbour mouth to the open Channel.

For Rye is no longer on the sea; the Rother and its tributary the Brede have conspired with the eastward drift of the shingle, due to the swift up-Channel flood-tides, to silt up the old estuaries and carry the harbour mouth ever seaward, so that the ancient towns of Rye and Winchelsea which were once almost encircled by the waves are now inland by some two miles of green meadow and shingle bank. Isled in the meadow about halfway between the towns and the sea the grey ruin of Camber Castle is visible; this was built by Henry VIII. to guard the mouth of the then harbour, but was soon abandoned as the sea crept further away and the men back to their comfortable towns. The growth of the links of Rye or rather of Camber is perhaps the latest incident in this eternal struggle between sea and land, a struggle which indeed still continues, as the Rye Harbour Commissioners know to their cost in their efforts to keep the river channel navigable. The Parliamentary golfer will probably have little leisure to philosophise on the early history of his playground or the part it has played in the changing fortunes of Rye, but after he has climbed up to the seventeenth tee, when too we may expect the stress of his match will be over, he may spare time to gaze round the sweep of Rye Bay and back to the twin heights of the ancient towns. There on a clear and bright Sunday, 29 August, 1350, was fought one of the most desperate seafights of our history,

"L'Espagnols sur Mer," when the men of the Cinque Ports, under Edward himself, made good again our old assertion of the Sovereignty of the Narrow Seas. The Spaniards, half traders and half pirates, had repeatedly attacked and robbed English ships and Edward determined to exact reparation with the Cinque Port fleet. Insolent, however, in the strength of their ships the Spaniards finished their trading and fitted out their fleet for action at Sluys, and when the wind served stood westward in careless confidence. With the wind fair they might have avoided the action had they wished, but came down on the English fleet in Rye Bay late in the day about the hour of vespers. Froissart's picture of the King waiting for the Spaniards is widely known, sitting on deck in his black velvet jacket and making Chandos sing with the minstrels the new German dance which he had just brought home. "Ensi que li rois estoit en ce deduit, et que tout li chevalier estoient moult liet de ce que il le veoient si joieus, li guette, qui perçut la navie des Espagnols, dist 'Ho, j'en voi une venir! et me semble une nef d'Espagne' Lors s'apaisierent li ménestrel, et li fu de receif demandé se il en veoit plus. Assés tot après, il respondi et dist 'Oil, j'en voi II, et puis III, et puis III'." Of tactics there were none, though in a previous battle off Dover the Cinque Ports men had shown they had grasped the essential principle of a naval fight, when they stood up to windward and let the enemy go past so that the Frenchmen called to them that they were afraid, then bore down with the wind and cut the opposing fleet in two, to conquer the rear before the van could wear round to share in the fight. But on this occasion Edward was in charge and the maxims of chivalry and the tiltyard seem to have been the order of the day, for Edward ordered his unwilling shipmaster to head straight for a bigger Spanish ship coming full sail down the wind "car je veo jouter contre lui"! "De cel encontre fu la nef dou dit roy si estonnée que elle fut crockie et faisoit aigue", so much so indeed that when they had eventually grappled with another Spaniard Edward's men "hastoient durement de conquerer la nef", and as they cleared it went on board and left their own vessel to sink.

So too with the ship in which was the Black Prince, who was present though we are told he was too young to bear arms; it suffered so much from the bars of iron and stones thrown from the higher Spanish ships that "li yawe entra à grand randon dedans . . . pour laquel double les gens dou prince . . . se combatoient moult aigrement pour conquerir la nef espagnole" and had no sooner carried her by boarding than their own ship foundered at the side. The fighting was of the fiercest but the English were not to be denied, and when the Spaniards went off down wind in the darkness they left behind a score of ships in our hands. The King and the Princes landed at Rye and rode off to the Priory at Winchelsea, where was the Queen who received them with great joy and gladness, having spent the day in much anguish of heart, for the battle was plainly visible from the heights.

These were the brave days of the Ancient Towns; soon, very soon, afterwards they disappear from history, making a last glorious effort for the coming of the Armada, when they built the fire-ships and lured the great galleas on shore by Calais. But in their quiet easy way the Cinque Ports shared in the prosperity of the grazing-lands of the Marsh by which they had been engulfed; comfortable wool merchants and lawyers and the like sat round the ancient Council tables and did their stated services as Mayors and Barons of the Cinque Ports, duties which consisted in the main of dining and going to church in odd splendours of velvet and silk, with the occasional greater glory of bearing the canopy at a coronation. From their ruined towers and walls they might still see the King's navies swelling down Channel to seek the full tide of happiness in battle with the ancient enemies France and Spain, but the ships were manned from other ports, and the battle was no longer for the Sovereignty of the Narrow Seas but for the empire of the great ocean itself.

SUGGESTIONS FOR THE ZOO.—III.

OF the less notable groups of carnivora, the dog family might be shown to much greater advantage and far more comfortably, if the geese at present tantalisingly located opposite to them, were removed, and the ground occupied by their pens cut up into runs for the various kennels, which would give a fair scope for exercise, badly needed by such active creatures as wolves and foxes. The hyænas, although not nearly related to the dogs, closely resemble them in form and habits, and need similar accommodation, which could be afforded by getting rid of some of the superfluous wolves, since there are only three species of hyænas to be exhibited. To place them with the bears, animals of altogether different form and requirements, is a mistake.

The various "small carnivora", wild-cats, civets, and the like, are certainly not worth exhibiting to such an extent as is done at present, especially considering the very bad accommodation they are given. For the hardy species, out-door enclosures, with warm and dry dens to retire into, should be provided. This is, we believe, in contemplation in the case of the coatimonds, and the raccoons and badgers require to be similarly accommodated. Those which need more sheltered quarters, as the civets, should be much reduced in number, when they can be allotted cages large enough to enable them to enjoy life. The civets' house, for instance, if made into two dens only, would comfortably accommodate one pair of arboreal and one of terrestrial civets, quite enough instructively to exhibit the group.

The abominable little hutches in the small cats'-house should be done away with altogether, and a few good large cages built, to accommodate a few meerkats and mongooses, while a pair of caracals, those fine active animals now so cruelly cramped, might well have a whole side of this house to themselves. As to the wild-cats of different kinds, unless a special house is erected, there is no point in exhibiting them; the nobler species in the lion-house, with the few others kept elsewhere, exemplify the feline family for all practical purposes. The otters, of which only a single pair need be exhibited, might well be assigned the duck-pond adjoining their present cage. If the island were removed from this, and the enclosure extended to include the shrubbery on the side furthest from the tunnel, a very comfortable habitation for otters would be available.

The large aquatic carnivora, seals and sea-lions, are not by any means well shown at present. The sea-lions' pond is of a fair size, but might well be larger, and some arrangement of rock-work ought to supersede the ridiculous-looking platform and chair at present in use. The little pond assigned to the true seals is not nearly large enough, and is too far away from the fencing for the animals to be studied. There is plenty of room for the proper exhibition of these sea-beasts in the space now occupied, behind their quarters, by such familiar creatures as swans and geese, which might be otherwise disposed of. A great deal will have to be done before the ruminants can be regarded as well housed. There is one good paddock attached to the antelope-house, and some such recreation and grazing ground should be provided for all these animals. The pheasantries at the end of the cattle-sheds are to be done away with to make one there; and the similar runs opposite the wapiti-house, together with the waste ground abutting on Regent's Park at the back of these, might be thrown together to make the runs of the large deer more extensive, the present path being set back to skirt it close to the park fence.

There is still a great deal of space available for hardy animals not too heavy for the sloping ground along the banks of the canal, and it ought to be utilised in runs in one way or another. Some is, indeed, in use at present; but we do not see the utility of turning one of these deer paddocks into an enclosure apparently meant for birds of some kind, as is being done at present. The paddock we have alluded to, on the north bank, certainly did not look very well when the Sika deer were in it, but this was simply because there were too many on the ground, which is also the case

now that they have been removed to the deer-house on the opposite side of the Gardens, as pointed out earlier in this series.

The new paddock to be made on the site of the pheasantries, above alluded to, will be handy for the various wild cattle, which fortunately are not very energetic animals by nature. But in the matter of cattle, it should be noted that there are two species, not shown at present, which could be made useful and interesting adjuncts to the collection by giving rides. These are the so-called zebu, or domestic ox of India, and the domestic Indian buffalo. Well-broken couples of these animals, drawing real native carts such as are in daily use in Indian streets, would be an attraction to the gardens, and though a ride in a bullock-cart would not be so great a privilege to a child as a seat on the elephant, it would be an experience interesting enough to the juvenile public to warrant the Society in making this speculation—not a very expensive one.

The camels and elephants are well treated as it is, and get their outdoor exercise; and the rhinoceroses, hippopotami, giraffes, and the various equine animals, are well enough accommodated as to space, though as soon as possible such alterations in their abodes as will do away with the danger of fire will necessarily have to be taken in hand.

With regard to the small space now given to the kangaroos, the condition of these animals can be improved in two ways. In the first place, the shrub-covered hill leading down from the back of their house to the path up from the tunnel should be enclosed for an outdoor run; and, secondly, fewer species should be kept. One pair of one of the large kinds and one of a smaller species would be sufficient to exemplify them, and if this arrangement were adhered to, the indoor runs available for each would be much more in accordance with the requirements of the animals than the narrow space they have at present.

Although they do not attract sympathy so much as the kangaroos, the pigs have a reasonable complaint to make. Wild pigs in styes—and their present quarters are nothing more—are, to say the least of it, not instructive, and the gulls' enclosure opposite should be made available for them to root and wallow in according to their turns. As to the disposal of the gulls we shall speak later. The arrangement by which the Babirussa, a tropical pig, is compelled always to go into water when it wants to come to the front of its sty, cannot be too strongly condemned, as it is positively cruel in cold weather. The accommodation for rodents, further up above the pigsties, would be much improved if we got rid of the half-dozen superfluous common porcupines which inhabit an undue share of it and are not very much on view. There is really no need to have more than one pair of animals like this; while the very different Canadian climbing porcupine is not represented at all.

The smaller rodents, like squirrels and agoutis, could no doubt often be grouped together in aviary-like structures. Monkeys and many birds are kept in groups, and it is difficult to see why rodent mammals should not be treated in the same way; a ground and an arboreal species, kept in the same large cage, would not interfere with each other.

The one species of bat which the Garden usually possesses, the collared fruit-bat, is a marvellous example of endurance of unnatural conditions. Generations of these creatures have succeeded each other in their narrow cages in the monkey-house, where they have positively no room to fly at all; and they are good animals for exhibition, since, unlike most nocturnal creatures, they are fairly willing to move about by day. But there is no point about a bat so interesting as its power of flight; and in a cage six feet square, which could be readily provided in the monkey-house by giving up the exhibition of unnecessary trees at the ends, they could be seen taking a certain amount of exercise in a natural way; for bats possess a remarkable power of using their wings in a limited space.

We spoke in the first of these articles of the absence of a porpoise from the Gardens; it would be well worth giving up a large part of the fish-house for the exhibi-

tion of a pair of these animals, since as a p. ce of exhibition for fish it is not worth keeping up. It should be possible also in the so-called sloths' house to provide quarters for a manatee or dugong as well as the sloths.

TERNINA.

THERE have been several famous Brünnhildes, several famous Isoldes ; but in each rôle Ternina is supreme. And to anyone who takes the trouble to study this lady's art the fact is not a little curious. When she was first wildly acclaimed in London as a great artist, as one of the very greatest, a very demigoddess, I was completely puzzled. My own comprehension seems slow compared with that of many of my brethren. While they are already screaming with delight over some newly risen star, all my faculties are actively engaged in testing the value of the impression I have received. Is his or her art true art, is it sincere, is it deliberate art at all, or a mere lucky hit ?—these are questions necessary to answer before one dare call any singer a great artist. But they are questions which many critics do not take the trouble to ask themselves, or which at all events they do not give themselves the time to answer. My only consolation for being slower than they are is that if they sometimes guess right—and I can only call such hasty judgments guesses—they often guess wrong. However sympathetic one may be with an artist—be he singer, player or composer—it is not in the nature of things that really great art should be immediately recognisable as really great art : the history of every art has shown that really great art demands time for a just recognition. The fairest-minded judges, the critics most sensitive to artistic appeal, have gone wrong when the new thing has come before them. The following of each great artist has included a large percentage of the brainless, the addle-headed, the insensitive ; and one is bound to be suspicious of the utterances of such people. Such people have supported the charlatans as well as the genuine innovators ; and whether by luck they take the side of the right man or the side of the wrong one we cannot credit them with the slightest discrimination. Look at the Wagner entourage—one or two fine musicians, such as Liszt and Bülow, who really understood him, and a pack of nonentities who hoped to be lifted into fame on the wave of a huge movement, and who have vainly struggled since "the master's" death to make his very name ridiculous ; consider the dull Brahms cult ; think of the terrible Richard Strauss set to-day. From all such folk and their criticisms may we be delivered !

In previous articles I have preambulated somewhat to this effect, but not before dealing with an operatic singer. Yet in the case of opera singers it is more than ever necessary to bear in mind the facts I have set forth. An opera singer like an opera composer must fight for his position ; but the tradition is that singers create furores on first appearances, and there is a crowd of ninnies round every singer to get up a sort of artificial furore, to enthuse and to babble until the next star comes along ; and this goes on to such a degree that one grows heartily sick of it and may actually, if one is not careful, come to regard with dislike the artist who makes an instantaneous success. I can fairly say that when Ternina first sang in London I regarded her with no dislike ; but I studied her singing and acting with even greater care than I had done in the case of Van Rooy. The results were rather striking. What a magnificent voice ! said many. I listened, and found that the voice though fine was not of the finest order. What splendid acting ! (as Brünnhilde) but I remembered Klafsky very well. What a noble stage appearance ! I could recall half a dozen more dignified. Yet by the time these points were settled in my mind I was astonished to realise that as wholes Ternina's conceptions of the parts of Brünnhilde and Isolde were absolutely the finest I had seen and heard. Out of a stage presence not of the very best and marred by at least one serious physical

disability, out of a voice barely above the average, and out of acting which frequently fell beneath the best—from these elements, unsatisfactory, or perhaps three-quarters satisfactory, she built up impersonations which can only be called unmatched and matchless. The truth seems to be that she has the temperament and sheer brain-power to do what few singers can do—thoroughly understand, grasp, the character as it existed in the composer's imagination ; and her temperament, will and artistic gifts enable her to give a broad interpretation of the character as she understands it. Particular details may be and have been more finely done by other artists ; but while to some extent letting detail go hang Ternina's impersonations are more complete, truer, more moving, than those of any other singer. She never unnecessarily misses a histrionic point for the sake of vocal display, but when vocalism is wanted she is careful not to get an appearance of over-acting by sacrificing her opportunity ; and her vocal art is sufficient for the purpose. She is thus not only one of the greatest artists on the opera stage, but one of the most curious phenomena to be studied there ; her effects are not less surprising than the means by which she gets them.

When a new composition is given to the world one can take the score home and pore over it by one's own fireside until its meaning and value become plain. An opera singer can hardly be taken home and made to repeat her scenes by the fireside until the meaning and value of them become plain. We must trust to detached impressions, received days, weeks, even months, apart. But with Ternina it does not take long to perceive clearly one thing, that her command of the technique of the combined art of singing and acting is consummate. Few of the public, and not a large number of singers, understand the importance, the enormous importance, of a mastery of the foundations of the operatic art. In Gluck, Mozart, Wagner, even in Beethoven—in all the operas of all the real opera-writers every phrase is suited exactly to a particular movement or gesture, or rather to a particular sort of movement or gesture. In the greatest operas—say Mozart's—the music is both dramatically just and beautiful taken as sheer music ; it bears looking at from these points of view even as a masterpiece of sculpture bears looking at from many points of view. The first work of the young singer is to learn how to bring out the sheer beauty of the music while timing every step taken on the stage, every gesture, each change of facial expression, in accordance with the dramatic intention of its musical accompaniment. This may seem easy ; but it is not. Those who have watched the early rehearsals of new works have certainly seen the composer tearing his hair in his endeavours to make the singers do the two things, and chiefly to time the gestures and changes of facial expression. This Ternina does on the grand scale ; and in the most difficult situations one would swear that every movement was spontaneous. It is not. They talk nonsense who say that a great opera artist acts spontaneously, in this sense. All is premeditated, thought out. A thorough knowledge of the score is indispensable. When Ternina—or for that matter Gulbranson—appears (as Brünnhilde) to Siegmund in the second act of the "Valkyrie" every seeming careless movement is calculated exactly to fit the music. That Ternina does wonderfully ; and when she adds to that her emotion and feeling for beauty of phrase the effect is overwhelming. She has other qualities : her human persuasiveness and sweetness in the last act of the "Valkyrie", her force of mad passion in "Tristan", are things few singers can attain to. Even in that wretched opera "La Tosca" she contrives to give a semblance of life to a lifeless part. In every part she takes she is a great interpreter, and in some she is the greatest ; and, I repeat, she arrives at her supremacy in the oddest way, by the most curious combination of mediocre means and devices, that has been witnessed.

JOHN F. RUNCIMAN.

MR. MARTIN HARVEY AT S. HELENA.

CAPTIVITY is dramatic or undramatic according to the nature of the captive. The fowler who ensnares from the empyrean an eagle, and coops him in a cage, is a purveyor of drama. Not only is our imagination stirred by the contrast between that boundless azure and these mean bars, and by the thought that one who was the tyrant and terror of his fellow-birds is turned now into a mere object for their pity, but also our sense of drama is stirred by the obviously active conflict between the eagle's soul and his lot. The eagle remembers, pines, rebels. He never surrenders his right to that wild throne from which man has by subtlety deposed him. He is as strong as ever he was on the divine right of eagles. Us he regards as vile conspirators against heaven, and there is a world of scorn for us in the dim glare of his steadfast yellow eyes. His spirit never breaks, though himself wastes away, with moulting feathers and wings atrophied. Regard yonder canary. He, too, is a pathetic figure, when we come to think of it. Had he his rights, he would be even now fluttering from sunlit branch to branch of whatever tropical trees best pleased his fancy. Only, he has surrendered his rights. He has adapted himself, quite agreeably, to durance vile. He enjoys his little cold bath every morning. From perch to perch he flutters, all day long, piping servile notes to his gaolers, and pecking with servile relish at the groundsel that they thrust contemptuously between the bars. Perhaps he is a philosopher. Perhaps he is only a fool. In either case, he is not at all dramatic. His behaviour precludes that sense of conflict without which drama cannot begin to be for us. We incline to the theory that he is a fool. We do not, however (to use a famous distinction) think him a damned fool. And how, except as a damned fool, could we regard an eagle that were behaving in his manner? Imagine a caged eagle pirouetting, and cocking his head coquettishly to one side, and feeding from our hand, and entertaining us with whatever vocal noises are made by eagles at large, and generally exhibiting the Christian qualities of resignation and cheerfulness, as a lesson to us all. We should not be edified. We should but say "This bird is undramatic; and, worse, he is undramatically ridiculous".

Let us take now the case of a human captive. Perhaps because Jupiter's bird was the minister of his sufferings, Prometheus springs into my memory. Why is it that Prometheus Bound is so finely dramatic a theme? It is because his spirit, though his limbs were bound to the rock, was still unfettered. It is because he was for ever indignant, unrepentant, undaunted. His spirit never was broken. He was always writhing and wrenching for freedom, and, had he freed himself indeed, would again have scaled Olympus and therefrom filched some other element desirable for mankind. And thus he is the eternally dramatic symbol of the conflict between soaring personal genius and the dull general force that hates it and overpowers it. Now, suppose that Prometheus, on his rock, shrugging his shoulders as far as his chains would permit him, had acquiesced in the gods' verdict. Suppose his sentiments had been merely a distaste for the cramped monotony of his life, and a regret that he was not still lightly at large. Suppose him, if you can, saying "tweet" to the eagle. Then in all history no figure will seem to you a less dramatic figure than he. Nay! having regard to his past, you will deem him of all figures the most undramatically ridiculous.

Not incomparable with Prometheus Bound is Napoleon at S. Helena. Of course, the destructive egoist in captivity does not cut so noble a figure as the beneficent altruist; but Napoleon, not less than Prometheus, is an eternally dramatic symbol of the aforesaid conflict. A handful of dull English dragoons and duller English civilians lording it and martinetting it, in an out-of-the-way islet, over him who from the fire in his own breast had set Europe blazing, and in whose own breast that fire was still smouldering and, in its suppression, choking and stifling him—what finer psychologic theme could any dramatist find in the world's history? But suppose history to be here

inaccurate. Suppose that, when he disembarked at S. Helena, Napoleon so "ranged himself" as to become a gentle, agreeable, sentimental, unambitious old gentleman, such as you might meet at any moment in the smoking-room of any club in London. Met there, the type is not ridiculous. The old gentleman in the arm-chair next to yours has not, in his day, set Europe blazing—has never even, you conjecture, cherished sinister designs on the Thames. So you "mock him not". But he is not dramatic. Nor would Napoleon, behaving at S. Helena as this old gentleman behaves here, have been dramatic. And ridiculous, most ridiculous, such a Napoleon would, assuredly, have been. And just such a Napoleon it is that Messrs. Lloyd Osbourne and Austin Strong have from their joint fancies evolved for Mr. Martin Harvey.

Conscious that a sudden, unprepared sight of Napoleon—even of Pelléas in Napoleonic costume—would suggest to us the wrong old notion which they have discarded, these authors wisely keep Napoleon off the stage till the curtain is falling on the first act. Meanwhile, we have been told what manner of man we are to expect. We hear, among many other things to his advantage, that what most preys on his mind is not the loss of his empire, but the enforced separation from his dear wife and child. The children of other people are, however, a very great solace to him; and in the second act, on his birthday, he holds a review of them, all armed by him with toy muskets and taught to march just like real soldiers. Bless his heart—his gentle, uncomplaining, tenderly-humorous heart—but do not imagine there is no warm corner in it for deserving adults. Notice that young English lieutenant, a most deserving case. He is in love with yonder English maid, but too poor to buy his promotion and wed her. Napoleon, like the good fairy god-father that he is, will find, though he can ill afford, the money to buy him his promotion. There must be a peal of wedding-bells to gladden Napoleon's old heart. His thoughts are all for others. Others' are for him. Others plot that he may escape, but they do not take him into their confidence. They say that his health would not stand the excitement, but we suspect that what they really fear is that he would refuse to participate in anything underhand. When all their plans are laid, and they try to rush him into the enterprise, he does, for a moment, waver, seeming as though he would allow himself to be rushed. He is only human. But in a moment his better nature asserts itself. "No", he says firmly, "I will not spill the blood of France in a purely personal cause". The young lieutenant has a little surprise for him—a portrait of the little Duc de Reichstadt. "Leave me alone with my son", falters Napoleon. They leave him alone with his son. And there we, too, are asked by Messrs. Lloyd Osbourne and Austin Strong to leave him.

To the people whose one desire in playgoing is "a good laugh" such a Napoleon will be a safe attraction. Those who are fond of drama, will be bored by it. Those who are fond both of drama and of history will be much annoyed by it. Indeed, I never saw a worse specimen of historical drama. Usually, as in the case of "Dante", the mischief is that the playwright takes from history some undramatic material which he twists painfully into dramatic form, thus creating an uncomfortable friction between our knowledge of the real thing and our sense of the imaginary thing. That is bad enough. But how much worse is it when, as now, in "The Exile", finely dramatic material is taken from history and twisted painfully into quite undramatic form! Napoleon at S. Helena was inwardly the same Napoleon that had terrorised the world. There is the dramatist's chance, and he goes out of his way to miss it if he makes Napoleon a sympathetic old dodderer. Napoleon loved his son, doubtless; but only in a Napoleonic sense, only as the possible heir of his own greatness. Napoleon may (I believe there is evidence that he did) drill a squad of small children. But, if so, his motive was the wish to realise in his own dramatic way the full irony and bitterness of downfall; it was not a delight in patterning feet and chubby cheeks and piping voices. Napoleon did not escape from S. Helena. But the reason was not, you may be sure, that he, who, in the old days,

would ever have so gladly sacrificed to his purpose those "six cent mille soldats qui marchent avec moi, pour moi, et comme moi", had become squeamish at the sight of blood "spilled in a purely personal cause". I cannot see why the authors of "The Exile" have gone so far and wilfully out of their way. I can but conjecture that their play was the result of a wager made by them that they would induce Mr. Martin Harvey, of all actors the least likely, to appear as Napoleon. Mr. Harvey is all for dreamy and ethereal and contemplative romanticism, and would flinch from the notion of playing Napoleon as he was. So they sat down to project Napoleon as he pre-eminently wasn't. They have won their (hypothetical) wager. And Mr. Harvey plays their (hypothetical) Napoleon in exactly the right key.

MAX BEERBOHM.

SCOTTISH WIDOWS' FUND.

PERHAPS the Scottish Widows' Fund is the best example to be found in the United Kingdom of permanent and unvarying stability and prosperity in the conduct of insurance business. Through a history of ninety years the average bonus results have been practically uniform, and for thirty or forty years have been absolutely unchanged.

The society is one of the greatest in this country, not merely for magnitude but for substantial merit. It commands universal confidence, and it is therefore not surprising to find that year after year it attracts a large volume of new business, which it obtains at a very moderate cost. During 1902 nearly 2,500 policies were issued, assuring £1,400,000, and yielding £56,000 in premiums. This is sufficient to produce a moderate increase in the total premium income, and so fulfil the ideal condition, in the interests of existing policy-holders, of a steady growth of business accompanied by a strict regard for economy. Including the somewhat heavy expenses for the septennial valuation, only 11½ per cent. of the premium income was absorbed for commission and expenses, and as the society is a mutual office no further expenditure is incurred for dividends to shareholders.

The report contains the usual statement which means so much to a Life office, that the rate of mortality is considerably less than was provided for. The number of deaths calculated upon was 924, and the actual number only 665, or 28 per cent. less than the mortality tables employed provide for. Such a favourable rate of mortality is an indication of careful medical selection, of which more detailed evidence is afforded by the valuable reports upon its mortality experience which the society publishes from time to time. The effect of this favourable mortality is to postpone the payment of claims, and in many cases to cause the society to receive a larger number of premiums than it would if the lives were less carefully selected.

The large assets of the society, amounting to more than £16,000,000, are invested with admirable skill and care and yield interest at the rate of £3 16s. 7d. per cent., a return which constitutes a large margin both for security and for bonuses in excess of the rate assumed in valuing the liabilities.

The premium rates charged by the society are somewhat above the average, but the bonuses are so good that they more than compensate for this difference. The number of participating policies which became claims by death originally assured £528,000, and the bonus additions to these policies exceeded £307,000. Considering that the bonus is at the rate of 34s. per cent. per annum on sums assured and previous bonuses, and that seventy-six of the policy-holders who died lived to over eighty years of age, it is not surprising to find that the bonuses run up to very large figures.

The society is well known scrupulously to safeguard the interests of its policy-holders by refusing to pay extravagant commissions for the introduction of new business, and it is quite probable that in consequence of this many people are persuaded to effect their assurances with inferior companies. This extravagant commission-paying is so great a curse in the insurance

world that too much prominence cannot well be given to the fact that many of the best societies steadily set their faces against it, and consequently suffer in magnitude of new business, though unquestionably gaining the far more valuable feature of larger profits for their policy-holders. An intending policy-holder would not go far wrong if he ascertained whether the office in which he contemplated assuring did or did not pay a rate of commission greatly in excess of the normal standard, and, if he found that it did, to take his policy elsewhere.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE ALASKAN BOUNDARY.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

3 Quincy Hall, Cambridge, Mass., U.S.A.

30 April, 1903.

SIR,—Apropos of Mr. Arthur Johnston's letters to the SATURDAY REVIEW tracing the negotiations surrounding the various boundary treaties between Great Britain and the United States in regard to the Canadian frontier, I think perhaps that the following excerpt from a book by an anonymous writer and printed in London (Sampson Low), in 1863, called "The American Question, and how to Settle it", may not be amiss, as the fact referred to may not be generally known. On page 245 the author says:—"The settlement of the North-Eastern Boundary question might have been wise as a matter of policy, but was contrary to the clearest evidence. When peace terminated the revolutionary war, that peace was negotiated by Franklin. When the treaty was made by Lord Ashburton, the Government of the United States was in possession of the map sent by Franklin to the French Ministry, and deposited in their archives. This map is authenticated by a note in his own handwriting; and on this map is a strong red-ink line drawn by Franklin's own hand, and referred to in his note. The Government was also possessed of a map found in Jefferson's collection, in which a similar red line delineated the true boundary. Franklin's map was discovered by Mr. Jared Sparks, who when forwarding it to the United States Government wrote thus:—'The line is bold and distinct in every part, made with red ink. There is no other coloring on any part of the map. Imagine my surprise on discovering that this line was wholly south of the St. John's. It is exactly the line contended for by Great Britain, except that it concedes more than is claimed.' All this evidence was produced before the Senate—Jefferson's map, as well as Franklin's—"the two", as Mr. Rives observed, "coinciding minutely and exactly".* But this conclusive evidence, though in the hands of the United States Government, was suppressed in the Senate, and the Government, backed up by the people, thought it clever to cajole the British negotiator, and thus Canada was severed from New Brunswick.

According to the American version, England was in possession of the original map of the British Commissioner in 1783, with a note upon it, said to be in the handwriting of George III., giving the American and not the British line. Be this as it may, such inferential negative evidence must be very inferior to the direct affirmative evidence under the hands of Franklin and Jefferson; and, as has been suggested, there may have been an exchange of maps at the negotiations of 1783, each party being put in possession of and retaining the map showing his adversary's claim.

Yours truly,

"CANADIAN SYMPATHISER."

N.B.—Of this North-east boundary Mr. Percy Greg, in his "History of the United States from the Foundation of Virginia to the Reconstruction of the Union"† says (vol. ii., p. 11): "The line actually adopted is

* Spence, p. 297.

† London: 1887. W. H. Allen and Co.

one which nothing but a defeat as crushing as that of France in 1870 would induce an European Power to accept." He puts the whole matter in a nutshell and writes very much to the point on the matter.

OUR FOOD SUPPLY IN OTHER THAN WAR-TIME.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

Georgetown, Demerara, 28 March, 1903.

SIR,—The inquiry into our food supply in time of war suggests a side issue that appears well worth attention—to see how far we are capable of supplying at any, and at all times, a sufficiency, if not an abundance of edible and palatable food, at the very cheapest rate, to ourselves as well as to the very poorest classes. Such an inquiry scientifically and properly handled would perhaps amongst other things fully disclose the fact that Providence has generally caused to be most nutritious those supplies which are, or which can be made, most abundant, and now that there exist such auxiliaries as fish hatcheries, &c., &c., something perhaps may be done towards keeping the very poorest classes further from suffering and from starvation. In some parts of the world advantage is taken of roots and plants which we probably neglect, and these if utilised, either by themselves, or combined with other staple foods, would tend perhaps towards the upkeep both of the people and of their cattle and feathered stock.

I am, Sir, yours, &c.
GEORGE C. BENSON.

GRETCHEN—AN ACCIDENT.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

22 Mark Street, Portrush, 5 May, 1903.

SIR,—In the very interesting article on the Faust legends in your issue of 25th April, I am surprised to notice the statement that Gretchen is "an accident picked up for his own purposes by Mephistopheles who in his turn is but an incident". As justly one might say that Elizabeth in "Tannhäuser" is an accident or is used by Venus to restore her possession of the Minnesinger. The action of the Ewig-Weibliche in the two heroines is quite parallel and is differentiated merely by the difference in the respective heroes and by the forms demanded by the two dramas. Tannhäuser is the man of genius whose moral nature has broken down under the strain of evil passion. His soul is forfeit and can only be rescued by a miracle which is granted to the prayer of Elizabeth. Faust, on the other hand, is a man of superhuman talent and industry, by heredity a scientist and philanthropist, by vocation a man of action. He is a great and fascinating personality, as Mr. Pollock truly says, the central figure in the play. The fundamental motive of the drama is not Faust's pact with Mephistopheles, but rather, as in the book of Job, the wager of the latter with the Almighty for the soul of Faust; and Gretchen is so far from being an accident that Faust, without her, could not be made perfect. Faust is saved by no miracle but rather by the natural operation of Divine Grace working through Margaret. She appears at the psychological moment when the hero has incurred tragic obligation by receiving from unholy hands the draught of youth and passion. Mephistopheles has promised to bring before him the loveliest of women, sneering to himself that

" For him, in every woman, lurks
A Helen, when this potion works".

But when Faust bids Mephistopheles get him "that girl", Mephistopheles says expressly: "Over her I have no power" and tries to dissuade Faust from the pursuit. This is the true key to the drama and is too much overlooked by commentators. Bearing in mind the statement of the Almighty in the Prolog im Himmel that Faust was His servant and that

" An upright man, still pressing darkly on
Well knows the way by which his goal is won",

now can it be regarded as an accident that Faust (or any other man) at the critical point of his destiny fixes his affections irrevocably on a woman over whom Mephistopheles has no power? Such a union is all the spiritual reinforcement required to escape for ever from the coarse allurements of the tempter. Consider how different would have been the action if Faust had fallen in with a Lady Macbeth or Lucrezia Borgia.

In earlier dramas, where the conflict was between good and evil, the feminine influence was, as in the Book of Job, diabolic. Since Goethe wrote, Wagner, Ibsen, Björnson and others have given us heroines on the side of the angels. Most of these like Gretchen were to perish in the using, but, unlike Faust, their heroes do not seem worth the sacrifice of a Solveg or a Senta.

Yours truly,

AGNES MURPHY.

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROBLEM.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

Widdington, Newport, Essex, 4 May, 1903.

SIR,—May I take the liberty of calling attention to an archaeological problem which has not, I venture to think, received the attention it deserves?

Beneath the surface of the earth, in the centre of the old Roman camp at Richborough in Kent, there is a mass of concrete, measuring 126 x 81 feet. It has been found to be at least 22 feet deep, but owing to the presence of water its full depth has not been ascertained. Two attempts have been made in past years—vainly—to penetrate the hard mass of concrete; its purpose is still unknown.

Mr. A. R. Goddard, in the *Transactions of the British Archaeological Association*, recently issued, seeks to show that it was in all probability the *Ærarium* or treasury of the Roman army, and that when they left Britain, hoping to return, they deposited their valuables there; so securely that, if this theory is correct, they may be there to-day.

If this should be the case—and there is at least a possibility (I may mention that Sir L. Alma Tadema is of this opinion, and that he thinks that the first step to take should be to drain the ground)—the "find" could not fail to be of the greatest interest and value.

The building belongs to a certain trust, of whom Canon Routledge is the acting member, and he is anxious to excavate, if funds are forthcoming. It ought to be possible without much difficulty to raise a sum sufficient to solve a most interesting problem. This is my excuse for troubling you with this letter.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

GEORGE CLAUSEN.

[Mr. Goddard certainly makes out a case for thorough excavation, whatever may be thought of his own conjecture. It is remarkable that so interesting a site should remain unexplored in our own country, seeing that it can be done at a cost trifling to a wealthy dilettante. About £100, we believe, is the estimate.—ED. S.R.]:

THE WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL: A SUGGESTION.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

SIR,—May I venture to express the hope that, while we are waiting for the completion of the only beautiful modern building in London, the Westminster Cathedral, something may be done to moderate the present ugliness and discordancy of the interior? That interior is at present a vast space of rough brickwork, which will ultimately be covered by marble slabs, reaching to a certain height, and by mosaics beyond that height. A very little of the marble has been put in its place (the screen, and portions of the side-chapels) and the mosaics of one of the chapels are nearly finished. Meanwhile the effect of this decoration is distorted, and the general effect of the building is impoverished, by the hideous yellow bricks, which absorb the light

as a sponge absorbs water. It will be many years before the marble and the mosaics will be finished, and, indeed, I understand that nothing at all is likely to be done in the nave and transepts for a year or so. Meanwhile, could not the whole of the nave and transepts be whitewashed (in not too glaring a white), so that at least there may be as much light as possible? It must be remembered that this is not a Gothic building, in which darkness counts for so much in the scheme of the architecture, but a building after the Byzantine pattern, in which every inch of space is to be coloured, and in which the architect has worked in a kind of co-operation with light. To leave the bricks as they are at present left is to obscure the whole beauty of the interior for one knows not how many years, until the decoration is completely finished. A temporary coating of lime would not only cover an annoying imperfection, but would send the whole church upwards and outwards into an actual and spacious beauty of its own.

I am, Sir, yours obediently,
ARTHUR SYMONS.

WESTMINSTER SCHOOL DORMITORY.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

Villa Christina, Santa Marta, Florence.
26 April, 1903.

SIR,—Having been abroad for some weeks I had missed the letter in which Mr. Blomfield deals with my remarks on the Westminster Dormitory. I had referred to Lord Burlington as Wren's ablest successor; Mr. Blomfield says "He was nothing of the sort". That, of course, is the expression of an opinion. But Wren's design, according to Mr. Blomfield, was so altered that when Lord Burlington built the Dormitory it was entirely spoilt. One wonders, therefore, why Mr. Blomfield should be so exceedingly anxious to make Wren responsible for it. As it stands it is not in the least like Wren but is intensely characteristic of Lord Burlington. I quite agree that it is deplorable for any of Wren's designs to have been superseded—but that is a different question altogether.

Yours faithfully,
JULIAN SAMPSON.

HAILEYBURY COLLEGE.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

Sevenoaks, 6 May, 1903.

SIR,—In the article on Haileybury College which appeared in the SATURDAY REVIEW of 25 April the following passage occurs:—"In Mr. Lyttelton's opinion the private schools largely hold the key of the situation: so long as they insist on preparing their best boys exclusively for a classical course, so long will the mainly classical schools and the classical side in any school secure the best brains, &c." This statement is somewhat misleading. In the first place it is entirely incorrect to say that private schools "insist" on preparing for the classical side: the curriculum of preparatory schools is plainly determined by the requirements of the public schools. A large number, probably a large majority, of preparatory schoolmasters favour the omission of Greek from the preparatory school curriculum. A resolution in favour of limiting the curriculum for young boys to two foreign languages was recently submitted to the 280 schools forming the Association of Head Masters of Preparatory Schools and carried by more than three to one. Moreover the committee of the same association voted *nem. con.* for a resolution approving of the proposal to omit Greek from the compulsory subjects for *Responses* at Oxford. In the second place it is at least probable that the above quotation does not correctly represent Mr. Lyttelton's opinion on the subject: for within the last few weeks Mr. Lyttelton listened sympathetically to arguments urged by the representatives of the Association of Head Masters of Preparatory Schools against

the retention of Greek in the preparatory school curriculum.

Faithfully yours,
FRANK RITCHIE,
Secretary to the Association of Head Masters of Preparatory Schools.

"SHAKESPEARE'S EUROPE."

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

Kersal, Manchester, 28 April, 1903.

SIR,—In the able and sympathetic notice of the work of Fynes Moryson which I have edited there occurs the following passage—"with the exception of the section on Ireland which was published in 1735 . . . these Chapters of the Itinerary see the light for the first time". There is no such exception. The Dublin publication of 1735 was a reprint from Moryson's Folio of 1617. None of Moryson's work in "Shakespeare's Europe" has ever been printed before. Thanking your reviewer for his kind appreciation of the book,

I am, Sir, yours truly, CHAS. HUGHES.

[We readily accept Mr. Hughes' correction and regret we should have made the mistake. But if he will look at pp. 36 and 37 of his Introduction we think he must admit that he has not made the point with his customary lucidity.—ED. S.R.]

"WHERE LIES HER CHARM?"

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

28 April, 1903.

SIR,—I am not so foolish as to complain of an unfavourable review, for three reasons. 1. An author who sends a book for review has no right to complain if it be unfavourable. 2. An unfavourable review is better than none. 3. I am used to it. The SATURDAY REVIEW has "slated" all my books, except one—"Woman Suffrage Wrong". I write now to correct this misstatement of fact:—"Then we have a bishop who marries his deceased wife's sister in a registry office". We know from the very highest authority that no man is perfectly good. Bishops form no exception. But I cannot conceive a bishop even wishing to marry his deceased wife's sister; nor of a man occupying such a prominent position being able so far to conceal his identity, as to go through such an illegal ceremony. What I do represent is a clergyman marrying his deceased wife's sister, carefully concealing the ceremony, and afterwards becoming a bishop—a very different thing! And it is due to the lady to state that she only consents in fulfilment of a promise given to her dying sister, and stipulating that she shall retain her maiden name and condition—a stipulation strictly observed. Miss Regent was never more than the bishop's housekeeper. I do not accuse my reviewer of misrepresentation, but simply of a hasty, unintentional misstatement of fact. And I have endeavoured to state this in a temperately written letter.

I am, Sir, yours obediently,
J. MCGRIGOR ALLAN.

SUGGESTION FOR A NEW COMPETITION.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

London, 11 May, 1903.

SIR,—In this age of competitions organised by enterprising editors it is curious to find a notable omission from the list. As it would doubtless commend itself to the management of the "Times" I hasten to suggest it:

Candidates to walk from Printing House Square to Charing Cross, carrying the thirty-five volumes of the "Encyclopædia Britannica" (Tenth Edition) balanced on their heads.—Yours faithfully,

HORACE WYNDHAM.

[It would be a more painful task to attempt to carry the Encyclopædia in their heads.—Ed. S.R.]

DANAЕ.

(From *Simonides*.)

A DRIFT in the carven ark, by the winds
 And the rising waves dismayed,
 Her pale cheek wet with falling tears,
 Round Perseus, faint with shuddering fears,
 The mother's arm she laid ;

Saying, "O my child, what pain I suffer,
 And thou still slumberest !
 Here in the dismal rivetted ark,
 In the rayless night, in the pitchy dark,
 Sleep heaves thine infant breast.

" Wash of the racing wave goes past
 Above thy silken hair ;
 Yet neither of wave nor bellowing blast
 Thou hast any heed or care,
 In mantle of crimson warm and fast,
 Little face, how sweet and fair !

" But had this fear been fear indeed
 And fearful in thy mind,
 Then to my voice with listening heed
 Had thy small ear inclined . . .

" Sleep on then, O my baby, sleep,
 And sleep, thou Sea ;
 Rested in sleep, I pray, at length
 My infinite sorrow be.
 O Father in Heaven, vouchsafe erelong
 Change to be shown from thee ;
 And if my too bold hopes be wrong,
 O Lord God, pardon me !"

WALTER HEADLAM.

REVIEWS.

DARWIN'S CORRESPONDENCE.

" More Letters of Charles Darwin." Edited by Francis Darwin and A. C. Seward. 2 vols. London : Murray. 1903. 32s. net.

THE "Origin of Species" was published in 1859 ; in 1868 we find Darwin writing to Sir Joseph Hooker "I hear you are going to touch on the statement that the belief in Natural Selection is passing away". Just in the same way a well-known writer remarked the other day "There is very little of Darwinism left now". As far as our memory goes back, such has been the attitude of those who were anxious to be really "advanced" thinkers ever since the theory of Evolution won its first fight. There has always been some other hypothesis that was just about to displace the Darwinian, but when we renewed the conversation a few years later a fresh opponent was now supposed to be winning, the first having faded out without more ado ; somehow in the forty years' controversy the one end has always been kept up by the original theory pure and simple. This tendency to depreciate Darwin's results has largely been due to the fact that in the main his hypothesis has become part of the very texture of our thought ; we may accept his theories or not but we cannot prevent our whole way of looking at nature being coloured by them, so impossible is it nowadays to recover the attitude of the naturalist of half a century ago. For example Lamarck is nowadays sometimes set alongside Darwin, the earlier writer being read in the light of the latter's work. What Lamarck's writings conveyed before the "Origin of Species" can well be

gathered from a passage in one of Darwin's letters of 1844 (vol. i. p. 41), "Heaven forfend me from Lamarck nonsense of a 'tendency to progression' 'adaptations from the slow willing of animals' &c." Such continual reference to his work we take to be the characteristic mark of a really great man ; his conclusions may be overthrown or find their place in a wider generalisation, his discoveries may be merged in the common stock of knowledge, but there is always something proper to the man himself which keeps his work alive. Of course as regards this personal note the man of science is at a disadvantage ; no combination of circumstances or numbers can draw out of the second-rate men the achievements of Plato, of Keats, of Gainsborough, whereas had Newton or Darwin never lived, the steps they made per saltum would have surely come by the slow accretions of lesser men. But it is something more than the murmur clinging round a great name which justifies the publication of the further instalment of Darwin's letters ; Darwin brought about one of those great expansions of man's outlook on the universe which can be compared to the discovery of America in the material world, and his letters show us, as nothing else, the magnitude of the change effected.

In view of the previous publication of the "Life and Letters" these volumes are called "More Letters", but it is almost a pity some title was not found to indicate that the present publication is not merely a supplement to the Life. It is practically a record of Darwin's work told to his most intimate friends as it grew up in his own mind ; above all there is a continuous series of letters to Sir Joseph Hooker, the friend of a lifetime, who with Mr. A. R. Wallace and Mr. Herbert Spencer is still among us to report of the giants of those days. The feature which makes Darwin's correspondence of peculiar value is its range and its bearing upon his work ; more than is usual with scientific men Darwin depended upon his correspondents for his material, his class of facts do not accrue in the laboratory nor get enshrined in formal papers, they had to be culled from breeders and fanciers, from gardeners, from veritable field naturalists, from men in fact who saw things at first hand, though their eyes had often to be opened to the class of observation that was wanted. Another thing rendering Darwin's correspondence more extensive was his constant ill-health which kept him secluded at Down, one of the remotest of places considering it is only sixteen miles from London ; he was rarely able to attend meetings and had to do his multifarious questionings by letter.

In the present case the letters are arranged under subjects—Evolution—Geology—Man—&c., and still further to emphasise the scientific aim of the book, extracts and even whole letters, which had been published before in the "Life", are reproduced when they are necessary to make the story complete. For greater clearness, again, the other side of the correspondence is often included in the shape of letters from Sir Joseph Hooker, Mr. A. R. Wallace, and from Lyell, while on the other hand the beginnings and endings of letters are generally omitted. It must not be supposed however that the general reader will find himself deprived of the human element, the letters quickly build up a picture of Darwin as a full-blooded man in spite of every temptation to become a prig in the abstract nature of his studies, his success, his ill-health and isolation. It has been somewhat of a fashion since the publication of the "Life and Letters" to speak with gentle pity of Darwin. "Poor fellow, quite crushed in the end by science ; mind quite atrophied, sense of religion dead. When a young man he never moved without a Milton in his pocket but could not read a line of poetry later on." But such critics will find little evidence of an "atrophied" mind in his letters, and may if they be candid with themselves, realise that Darwin, with his ill-health and the enormous mass of work that he was carrying, was forced to confine his whole mind to one thing if he was to live at all. As to "atrophy", we invite them definitely to set down the date on which they themselves last read "Paradise Lost" and then express an opinion on the state of their own poetic sensibility as thus indicated.

Perhaps the most salient feature in Darwin's character as seen in these letters is his large-mindedness; not only was he devoted to accuracy but he was always more concerned with getting at the truth than in demonstrating his own correctness. For example, years after writing a paper to show the marine origin of the so-called "parallel roads of Glen Roy" he persuades Mr. Jamieson to go and observe them afresh, with the result that he writes to Lyell "I think the enclosed is worth your reading. I am smashed to atoms about Glen Roy. My paper was one long gigantic blunder from beginning to end. Eheu! Eheu!" Or take another case—Darwin's exquisite "Coral Island" theory—long after it had received general acceptance Sir John Murray propounded his submerged bank hypothesis and we find Darwin writing to Agassiz and setting out Murray's argument, "Pray forgive me for troubling you at such a length, but it has occurred to me that you might be disposed to give, after your wide experience, your judgment. If I am wrong the sooner I am knocked on the head and annihilated the better". It was over this theory that the late Duke of Argyll discovered that choice specimen of a mare's nest which he called "A Conspiracy of Silence"; latterly Darwin's views have been amply confirmed by the boring on Funafuti.

Similarly Huxley, who was the "fighting man" of the evolution theory "my good and admirable agent for the promulgation of damnable heresies", is asked if he is not minimising weak points or scoring dialectic advantages which Darwin did not think quite justified. Consider again the way Darwin treated his critics, he was always willing to take their arguments at their best and modify his own position in the light of the evidence they brought, as in his answer to Harvey (vol. i. p. 160), when he might well have considered himself excused from giving the attack any consideration whatever.

But it is all of a piece: Darwin was a great man, and trained himself wonderfully for his life's work. Though by no means a laboratory man he did one sustained piece of minute anatomy—the monograph on his beloved barnacles—he geologised, travelled, and collected round the world, he made himself a fancier, until in the end he had just the first-hand experience that taught him in handling his varied material where to lay his weight and where to be distrustful and reject. Above all he had the big mind that could love the detail yet never forget the end for which it was accumulated, that could conceive a great law of the universe and yet spend a lifetime in making out the evidence.

A TRIPPER'S TALES OF MACEDONIA.

"The Tale of a Tour in Macedonia." By G. F. Abbott. London: Arnold. 1903. 14s. net.

"Macedonian Folklore." By G. F. Abbott. Cambridge: At the University Press. 1903. 9s. net.

"TO their Excellencies the Turkish Government officials, who so generously contributed to the enjoyment of his tour, this humble record of it is gratefully inscribed by the Author." Mr. Abbott's dedication, if we may judge by a quotation from "Hudibras" which accompanies it, is intended for sarcasm. But Turkish officials, whatever their other shortcomings, are notoriously hospitable and friendly to travellers, and Mr. Abbott, though he seems to have had no claim upon their generosity, was evidently treated with great kindness. His return for this takes the form of slanderous sneers and scandals at second hand. When Hadji Demir Bey asked him to dinner, Mr. Abbott reflected that the stain of associating with an infidel would doubtless be washed off in the blood of infidels some day. Judging from the rest of the book, this brutal and unnecessary remark was intended to be funny. Here are further examples of the author's new humour. As everyone knows, the whirling dervishes execute a graceful and solemn exercise, which is symbolical of the universe. Mr. Abbott alludes to their "ballet . . . not advertised in the ordinary way". Their devout serenity, he says, "revealed nothing more spiritual than the serenity which comes from intellectual vacuity assisted by a perfect digestion". Again, deeming it clever to

romance about himself by the way, he said to his muleteer, "I am the son of the Bishop of Serres". As Greek bishops do not marry, this was a peculiarly unfortunate jest. "What!" the muleteer gasped, pulling at his donkey's halter till they both stood still, the one gaping with mouth and eyes wide open, the other wagging its tail sympathetically. "Oh, I see", said the keradji as soon as he had somewhat recovered from the shock, giving me a friendly wink, "Such things will happen. The flesh is weak!"

As Mr. Abbott exhibits ignorance and prejudice fully equal to his vulgarity, it will be understood that his "Tale of a Tour" is by no means an infallible key to the intricate problems of Macedonia. It is only fair to note that he poses as no more than a tourist, but even so there remains a slight risk lest his dogmatism should be taken seriously. Those of us who have travelled in Macedonia will recall the imaginative clamours of Christian peasants and their inexhaustible repertory of atrocities, which rarely survive cross-examination. Mr. Abbott seems to have opened his mouth, shut his eyes, and swallowed every gift of the Greeks. Had he made a few simple inquiries, he would have found that Turkish officials and soldiers have erred rather on the side of leniency, charges of massacre being particularly feared as pretexts for intervention. Given a free hand, the Porte would long since have cleared Macedonia of Bulgarian brigandage and Albanian terrorism. Mr. Abbott does not understand this and seems to blame the Turks for excesses which they have been prevented from arresting. With regard to the Bulgarians, however, his testimony is more satisfactory because it has found ample corroboration elsewhere. He illustrates their methods of propaganda to some purpose: at Barakli, for instance (a town of 6,000 souls) "the Bulgarian exarch has established a school, which, however, can hardly boast twenty scholars, and these imported from outside. Pupils, unfortunately for the Bulgarians, do not propagate like plants, and the stock has to be kept up by continuous importation". "Many of the adherents of the Bulgarian party at Petritz and other districts of Central Macedonia are in receipt of a monthly salary.

. . . There are even in Petritz men who will not sell their souls for silver. For the conversion of these, another and sterner as well as cheaper metal is employed." In their proclamations the Bulgarian leaders "appeal to Alexander the Great as a national hero. After this", says Mr. Abbott, "I am inclined to believe the statement that in their school text-books Aristotle also is described as a great Bulgarian philosopher". After all, however, the inhabitants of modern Greece have hardly a better claim to the heroes and glories of Hellas. Mr. Abbott writes frankly as the mouthpiece of esurient Greeklings, who seem to have been his sole source of information. He did not even visit the important regions where Servian influence is supreme and he knows nothing of the nation which, by tradition and courage, possesses the first claim to a Macedonian reversion. "The Servians", he says, "are also attempting to promote their political interests by means of education, but the results have hitherto been even less encouraging than those obtained by the Bulgarians". This statement is flatly contradicted by statistics and (what is not always the same thing) by facts. The Servian cause has been obscured by the quasi-religious controversies of Greek Patriarchists and Bulgarian Exarchists, but the people are now realising their nationality and the Servian propaganda is making enormous strides. Any writer who fails to appreciate this salient fact is of very small account as an authority on the Macedonian question.

We acquit Mr. Abbott of any intention to deceive, but his superficial mind, his credulity and his inexactitude disqualify him as a political cicerone. Space forbids that we should do more than expose a few characteristic and glaring errors. Dushan, the name of the great Servian Emperor, is interpreted "strangler" instead of "soul" or "darling". The venerable blunder of dubbing the Orthodox Church "Greek" airily begs a very big question. The Aegean is mistaken for the Mediterranean. Uskub is said to be known as Skupi, instead of Skopje, to the Slavs. The gipsies of Macedonia are represented

as pilferers, like their brethren of other lands, whereas kaimakams and Servian prefects agree in proclaiming them models of probity. Mr. Abbott's arithmetic may be gauged by the following quotation: " Apart from the tithe (of 12½ per cent.) levied on grapes, there is a duty of 15 per cent. on the wine pressed therefrom, and another 15 per cent. is raised on the arrack distilled from the skins of the same. So the tithe on vines in reality amounts to 42½ per cent.!" After this, it is not surprising to hear that " the Macedonian is perhaps the most heavily taxed of any peasant in the world, always excepting his fellow-subjects". As a matter of fact, whatever their other grievances, the Christian subjects of Turkey are probably more lightly taxed than any other people in the world. We must also quarrel with Mr. Abbott's aestheticism and imagination when we find him dismissing maize as monotonous and the kolo as stupid. Anyone who has driven through wide maize-plains by moonlight or experienced the magic spell of the dreamy Servian dance must feel horror at so Philistine a heresy. Mr. Abbott may have enjoyed limited opportunities during his brief tour through parts of Macedonia, but, importing a Cockney spirit and a snippet sense of humour, he surveys even Oriental glamour through suburban spectacles. His illustrations are appropriately dull, and his map is a masterpiece of inefficiency. Not only does it fail to record many of the places which he visited, but it does not even possess elementary accuracy. The Chalcidic peninsula is out of proportion, Lake Beshik is several miles too short, Lake Presba has been docked and caricatured, no mountains are indicated between Uskub and Salonica, frontiers are incoherently indicated: in fact, the map appears to have been drawn from memory, and a very bad memory at that. It is therefore a suitable companion for an unsatisfactory book.

In the province of folk-lore there are more excuses for Mr. Abbott, and his inaccuracies are less dangerous. He appears to have taken great pains to very little purpose, and the observations in his second book are chiefly pedantic or obvious. He has written down and translated a great number of modern Greek songs, which afford no evidence of poetry or imagination; he has collected many pointless riddles, whereof the following is a fair sample: "Ἐχω νερό; πίνω κρασί. Δέν
ἔχω νερό; πίνω νερό.—Answer, μηλωτάς; and he is very prolific of superstitions, though his knowledge of the subject is absurdly slender. "In America", he says, "spilling salt is unlucky". Why in America? And here is a surprising discovery: "The Easter festivities are ushered in by a long period of strict abstinence, known as the Great Forty-Day Fast (ἡ Μεγάλη Σαρακοστή—Lent)". Our only relief in Mr. Abbott's second book is the absence of the weak new humour, which disfigured the first. As a serious contribution to the study of folk-lore it is, however, of very little avail.

VERSES CLASSICAL AND NOT.

"The Poetical Works of Thomas Traherne." London : Dobell. 1903. 7s. 6d. net.
 "The Princess of Hanover." By Margaret L. Woods. London : Duckworth. 1902. 5s. net.
 "Horace on the Links." By C. J. B. and P. S. W. London : Sonnenschein. 1903. 2s. 6d.
 "A Short Day's Work." By Monica P. Turnbull. London : At the Unicorn Press. 1902. 2s. 6d. net.

MR. DOBELL is to be congratulated upon the recovery of a lost poet, whom he asks us to number with Donne, Herbert, and Crashaw. He is certainly of their company, perhaps their peer. Thomas Traherne became rector of Credenhill in Herefordshire about 1657, and ten years later chaplain to Lord Bridgeman, Keeper of the Seals, in whose service he died while still under forty years old. The style of his poems (which he did not live to revise) he shares with his contemporaries: his "conceits", as theirs, are many; but the thought is strong behind them and is the more apt to get good hold on the mind for the slight debate its purposed extravagances arouse. But if the style is that of his day, the subjects are of the man himself. The whole force is directed towards the realisation of the thought of the

Kingdom Within: the empire of the mind. Again and again in various forms we meet with the same theme:

"A Living Temple of all ages, I
Within me see
A Temple of Eternity!
All Kingdoms I descry
In me."

His instructive attitude towards externals directly follows from this. So far from being a "victim of impressions that come upon us from without" he leads them in triumph as his captives. He does more than avoid the current ethical standpoint that the outward exists only to be suppressed; he almost attains the ideal position that it is to be valued just so far as it can be enlisted in the service of the spirit. Mr. Dobell quotes in his introduction a fine saying from the prose "Meditations" that "you never enjoy the world aright till the sea itself floweth in your veins, till you are clothed with the heavens, and crowned with the stars". The unworldly man can find no place, however, for personal finery. Chains and bracelets are to him "gilded manacles" though he characteristically extols the wonders of the limbs they are intended to adorn:

“ . . . these in all my ways
Shall themes become and organs of Thy praise.”

Mr. Dobell's claim that Traherne was a Berkeleyan before Berkeley is sufficiently borne out by the poem "My Spirit", in some respects the finest of all. He is led on by his dominant thought to see that

“ . . . every object in my Heart and Thought
Begot or was : I could not tell
Whether the things did there themselves appear,
Which in my Spirit truly seemed to dwell ;
Or whether my conforming Mind
Were not even all that therein shined ”.

If there is more philosophy than poetry in this, there is the real stuff, a hint of the "Intimations" in the "Recollections of early Childhood: the "vision splendid" to Traherne is not yet faded—

"I a world of true delight
Did then, and to this day do see".

And this after all is the poet's own gift—the inward eye, the mind's eye, the finest frenzy as also the lasting theme for "the sessions of sweet silent thought".

Mrs. Woods is bold in compelling the reader of her play to spend the first zest of his interest on the unessentials. She writes a preface which attacks some of the dearest dogmas of the instructed poet. We are in danger almost of wondering if the tragedy of poor Sophia of Zell was not dug up again in order to prove that the English five-foot iambic may contain at least as many syllables as the six-foot iambic of the Greeks plus the resolved iambic dear to Euripides. Mrs. Woods, with Mr. Bridges, would rebel against the false analogy and the false derivation. English verse is in essence Saxon, not Greek or Latin. On the other hand the classic ideals have schooled English verse into its pre-eminence, and Mrs. Woods is really going straight back at a jump to the rules that guided Lackland, minus his alliterative thraldom. And is it a fancy that the moment Mr. Bridges as Mrs. Woods gives full play to this freedom from syllabic limitation he drops into excessive alliteration?

"Silently sifting and veiling road, roof and railing": Surely this line is a true lineal descendant of Lackland's

"In settynge and in sowing swonken ful harde"

in setting and in sewing swallows far apart with his three rime-letters, and even his compulsory mid-verse pause. We should like to know Mr. Bridges' opinion of Mrs. Woods' further audacious plea for the Cockney rhyme. She would rhyme "palm" and "arm", a thing that even the editor of "Punch", certainly Mr. Seaman, would regard with horror. "Why?" asks the evolutionist; and though we have every admiration of her preference for the rhyme that does not hit you, the so-called rhyme to the eye, it is more difficult to confess that the Cockney Rhymer has a place on Par-
nassus. Where are we to stop if we admit "palm" and "arm"? Theory would almost allow us "sore" "war" and "flaw" or even "sure"!

Shakespeare is claimed, rightly enough as the first emancipator ; but would Shakespeare have written such lines as these :

" Who imagine her creeping disguised in the dark."

Leave such a line to the sweet will of the untutored ear—the right authority—and who will not scan it with exactly the same sing-song dactylic cantering motion as

" And we thought he was cocking a snook at the dog".

Or again

" And all were at the great fountain to see the fire-works".

The untutored ear will have none of it : and accept it only as a sort of halting attempt at the rhythm of

" The king was in his counting house a-counting out the money".

It won't do. Verse demands stricter laws than a numeration of stresses. It is Mrs. Woods' fault that we have got no further than the short preface to "A Princess of Hanover". But we hope Mrs. Woods' readers will begin with the play. It is perhaps a little fussy ; too muddled in the early stages with bye-play and unessential characters : the picture does not at first stand out. The last scene too is faithful to history at the expense of fidelity to dramatic art. One may disregard the unities but not outrage them. Still, when all is said, the language reaches a distinction that is rare and in the drama is something of the felt power and poignancy of the classic tragedy. We do not know any recent play that is nearly as good.

Mrs. Woods wishes to escape from classical metres. Sometimes it is pleasant to escape to them. Will the time ever come when parodists and translators will keep their hands off Horace ? Just now he seemed to have kept prophetic eyes on modern politics ; the " Persicos odi puer apparatus " slipped as naturally into an address to Lord Warkworth as " ad ministrum ". But now again this same ode appears to have a co-natal association with the caddy. " The pomp and parody of the Percys I never could wholly abide " was close to the original.

" I will not overload thee, boy :
I hate great show of apparatus "

is as near ; and still as you look at the ode it grows full of modern instances and to read one ode suggests a dozen more, equally fitted for the game. But perhaps P. S. W. and C. J. B., whose parodies are sandwiched with sage instruction by a later Horace, Mr. Horace Hutchinson, have taken the most tempting ; if we may except " Mæcenas atavis ". The " meta fervidis evitata rotis " suggests many a fiery Haskell that has lipped the hole and " certat tergeminis tollere honoribus " can scarcely but refer to an effort to excel in a three-ball match. As an instance of the inevitableness of phrases, which the two translators have brought out we may offer " nimium premendo ", " Rebus in arduis " and " Nec fortuitum spernere cæspitem ". It would be safe to wager that nine out of ten golfers and scholars would extract the same meaning. What could the first be but a warning not to " press ", and the second but a reference to a bunker and the third but a command to replace the divot. Both the parodists are neat and have added a charm by each taking in some cases the same ode ; but C. J. B. seemed to us simpler and more inevitable. It is not well to cook Horace overmuch.

It is not possible to read this " Short Day's Work " without a master pity that the day wherein Monica Turnbull worked was so soon done. The better pieces—if one can point to none and say " this is great "—are instinct with a spirit that saw into the beauty of things. The might-have-been is almost a must-have-been. The real lyric gift is not mistakable. It can be won by no affectation, by no art, by no mimicry, for it is not in the words, not even in the thought. The birds have it. The little set piece of " The Chaffinch " is an endless lyric for all its repetition ; and the little refrain " green grows the wood " in the " Shepherd's Song " that opens this work has the

same native note. Why ; no man has the wisdom to say. The friends who collected these lyrics speak differently of the inclusion of a few translations from Heine. There was no need of the diffidence. Speaking with all soberness this translation of " Mein Herz, mein Herz ist traurig " has much more of the real Heine note in it than any adaptation we have read.

" Beyond in a rising terrace
Glitters the world and its goods,
Houses and gardens and people
Oxen and meadows and woods."

The dreamy weariness of the original could hardly be better, more simply conveyed. The prose pieces are perhaps even better and marked by wonderful little gushes of insight. " I think that part of Swift's misery arose from the fact of his having no feeling for beauty." The sentence is worth a good deal of Thackeray's criticism in the " English Humourists ".

More than once has this Review contained contributions from Miss Turnbull ; critically as well as humanly we deeply regret her work day's broken period.

HOW ANGLOPHOBIA WAS MADE.

" The Brunt of the War and where it fell." By Emily Hobhouse. London : Methuen. 1902. 6s.

THE purpose of this book is to fix the responsibility for the mortality in the concentration camps upon the English military authorities and through them upon the English people. Its main contents consist of letters of complaint in which charges, varying from trivial to serious, are brought against the officers by whom the deportation and maintenance of the Boer refugee population were effected ; and the descriptions of the sufferings of the Boer women and children thus presented is accompanied by extracts from official correspondence on the subject of the concentration camps, and by a narrative of the efforts made by Miss Hobhouse to put the knowledge of these sufferings before the Secretary for War and the general public in England. It is scarcely necessary to remark that none of the evidence on the other side is here produced. Both the spontaneous and grateful testimonies to the consideration shown by the English authorities to the wives and families of fighting burghers, and the evidence afforded by the Ladies' Committee of Inquiry of the extent to which the mortality was directly due to the insanitary practices of the refugees themselves, are alike omitted. But the method and purpose of Miss Hobhouse's book make any such rebutting evidence unnecessary. The issue which she has chosen is one from which these considerations are expressly excluded. " As a whole ", she writes, " the great body of Boer women have come finely out of the ordeal to which we have subjected them. But that is no justification of their having been so subjected. Never before have women and children been so warred against ". The real contention of the book is contained in these words, which we have italicised. The question at issue, therefore, is not whether the misery caused by the concentration camps was such as Miss Hobhouse states it to be, but whether the responsibility for this misery, whether greater or less, rests upon us or upon the Boer leaders. According to Miss Hobhouse, " the responsibility rests on us ". The concentration camps were used to compel a submission which we could not otherwise bring about. In plain words, being unable to subdue the Boer men, we made war on the Boer women and children.

When once Miss Hobhouse's argument is disentangled from the web of false sentiment into which it is woven, both its odious character and its utter baselessness can be exposed. What are the facts ? After the occupation of Pretoria and the decisive defeat of the Boer army on the heights of Dalmanutha the combatant burghers broke up into numerous small bodies. The few considerable towns and the railways were held by the English ; the remaining area of the two Republics was traversed, but not permanently occupied, by alternate British columns and Boer commandos. The population consisted of the women and children of burghers on commando, together with the Kaffir servants and a

small number of burghers who had taken the oath of neutrality and returned to their farms. The attempt made by Lord Roberts to induce this non-combatant population to observe the duties of neutrality failed. Not only did the roving commandos obtain supplies and information from a population which was naturally enough hostile to the English, but the Boer leaders claimed and exercised the right of compelling burghers who had taken the oath of neutrality to rejoin their respective commandos. The Boers subsequently prided themselves, and with justice, upon the assistance rendered by their women during this stage of the war. Lord Roberts, after repeated and fruitless warnings to the Boer generals, then commenced the practice of destroying the property of non-combatants in districts where trains had been wrecked, or other acts of warfare had been committed by the Boer forces, such as would have been impossible without the assistance of the inhabitants. Meanwhile, in view of Section 6 of the proclamation of 14 August, 1900, under which burghers who had taken the oath of neutrality were rendered liable to "acquaint Her Majesty's forces with the presence of the enemy", a number of burghers entered the British lines as voluntary refugees, and on 22 September, 1900, the first concentration camps were formed for their reception at Pretoria and Bloemfontein. From this date onwards the Boer generals adopted the methods identified with guerilla warfare, and the adoption of these methods by the enemy imposed upon the British military authorities the duty of removing all sources of supply from the sparsely populated and roadless areas traversed by the Boer commandos. The decision to continue to resist the British forces by guerilla methods was made by the Boer generals. The consequent destruction of property was as obvious and foreseen a result of that decision as the answering discharge of a British battery whose fire had been deliberately "drawn" by the Boer gunners. In the execution of this task of denuding the country of supplies the British military authorities might have chosen either of two methods of treating the Boer population. It was open to them to throw the burden of removing and sustaining this population upon the Boer leaders, or to undertake it themselves. There can be no question as to which of these two courses was the more advantageous from a military point of view. They chose the course which they knew to be the least advantageous to themselves, but which they believed to be the most humane. As it turned out this humane intention was defeated by the unexpected determination of the Boer leaders to use the relief thus afforded them as a means of continuing an otherwise impossible struggle.

There is no shadow of doubt in the matter. Our assumption of the burden of providing for the homeless population of the denuded areas did prolong the war; and it was not until we had been convinced of the fact—until it had been shown, in other words, that the more severe course was in reality the more humane—that we renounced this responsibility and the war was ended. Writing of the reasons which led the Boers to surrender Miss Hobhouse quotes General Hertzog: "It was the state of things which Louis Botha disclosed in the Eastern Transvaal, which left no option but to give in. Some 10,000 Boer women and children were being fed principally in that district, but only enough provision remained for another six weeks. The British had for many months stopped the practice of gathering families into the concentration camps, though the work of destroying both the houses and the food-stuffs was still persisted in. . . . 'Twas useless to appeal to the General to receive into the camps the women and children thus left to starve, and admission was even refused to the families of surrendered burghers, who were already prisoners in Ceylon or elsewhere." Add to this the statement made by General de Wet to the Vereeniging delegates, as given by himself in his recently published book. "I am asked what I mean to do with the women and children. [De Wet was arguing against submission.] That is a very difficult question to answer. We must have faith, I think also we might meet the emergency in this way. A part of the men should be told off to lay down their arms for the sake of the women, and then they could take the women with

them to the English in the towns." And again: "When the war began we had plenty of provisions. . . . But now all is changed. One is only too thankful nowadays to know that our wives are under English protection. The question of our women folk is one of our greatest difficulties. What are we to do with them?"

In short, the decision to continue the war, when the war could only be continued by guerilla methods, was taken by the Boer leaders: the establishment of the concentration camps, so far from being a means of "warring upon women and children" was a voluntary acceptance on the part of the British military authorities of an onerous duty which properly belonged to the Boer leaders. When once this responsibility was laid upon them, or, in other words, when we fought the guerilla leaders on equal terms, the roving commandos were speedily compelled to surrender. As between civilised communities it is understood that when a belligerent has reached a point of disorganisation at which he can no longer protect his non-combatant population, he must surrender. The Boer, not being a civilised belligerent, refused to recognise this duty. We endeavoured to treat him as a civilised belligerent, and for our pains we receive the ignorant and fanatical abuse of which Miss Hobhouse has made herself the channel. The attempt to provide for the non-combatant population of an enemy is "to be denounced not merely by one party, but by every humane person of every creed and every tongue, denounced as a 'method of barbarism' which must never be resorted to again". Whether that attempt was, or was not, the hideous failure which Miss Hobhouse represents it to be, is, as we have already said, a matter which does not affect this issue. But even if we were to take these accounts at their face value, there are two points which could not fail to strike the intelligent reader. The first is the extraordinary forbearance shown by the British officers and privates under provocation which was often evidently intended to be wilful; and the second is the comparative triviality of the charges brought by these exasperated and sometimes vindictive women against the officers under whose charge they were placed.

NOVELS.

"The Untilled Field." By George Moore. London: Unwin. 1903. 6s.

Presumably Mr. George Moore is not responsible for his publisher's announcement that his "Great New Work" is "an Irish Comédie Humaine in one volume", but how did Mr. Fisher Unwin discover that "Ireland's welfare lies very near his heart, and he views with keen regret and dismay" several things which it would be flattery to term half-truths? The book is not really bad enough to require this indecorous bombast on the cover, though cover and contents match each other excellently in amazing want of humour. The author, to do him justice, allows his stories to speak for him, and those stories have a certain interest. It is nothing to us that most of them will bore the English public and some of them disgust the Irish. They are the work of a man who is deeply interested in observing contemporary Irish life, who can describe with minuteness and occasional felicity the result of his observations, and whose sincerity is as evident as his taste is abominable. The title of the book, in view of some of Mr. Moore's previous work, raises foreboding: Ireland is not an untilled field to the novelist, but unquestionably Irish life has not before been scrutinised from the point of view of sexual pathology. There is something in the national character which resents uncleanness, and whatever the faults of the Irish may be coarseness of view or of expression is not among them. Mr. Moore seems to be dimly conscious of this, and it is evident that he restrains his pen, but a dull essay cast in fiction form on the difficulty of obtaining in Dublin models for the nude, and a frankly disgusting irruption into the intimacies of conjugal life in a study which depends for its real interest on the contrast between the minds of husband and wife, illustrate the point of view. The Ireland that Mr. Moore describes

is a very small fraction of the real Ireland : his interest is practically confined to the influence of Roman Catholic priests on the peasantry of Connaught, and the feelings of returned Irish-Americans who resent that influence. The tendency is distinctly polemical, and this robs the stories of much of their possible value. The writer is careful to be just to individual priests, the characters are closely studied, and there is neither malice nor caricature. But a student without imagination or humour misses a great part of Irish life, however carefully and minutely he may catalogue. The theory that the priests systematically kill "the joy of life" is one of those dangerous dogmas that are very mischievous in fiction, and we are not at all sure that the author of these lugubrious lay-sermons realises that it is possible to be joyful without being unchaste. Is the free life of the New York Bowery so preferable to the possibly dull existence of a Connemara village? Amongst the thirteen stories of the book one or two—and it is noteworthy that in them there is nothing distinctively Irish except the scenery—are quite unaffected by the atmosphere of gloomy controversy, and suggest that if Mr. Moore could forget all about sexes and priests he might produce very delicate and very pleasing work. But as for a *Comédie Humaine*—well, it is excellent to revolt against the stage Irishman, but an author who is evidently insensible to the enjoyments of the open air, to sport in all its forms, and to the fighting instinct which is the salt of the Celtic race, can never boil Ireland down successfully into one volume.

"*The Adventures of Harry Revel.*" By A. T. Quiller Couch. London : Cassell. 1903. 6s.

In making a young chimney-sweep the hero of his story Mr. Quiller Couch exhibits something of the humour of Charles Lamb who, with that perfect understanding of what is real, especially in its caressing littleness, wrote in "praise of chimney-sweeps", valuing carefully their white teeth and fine enjoyment of white sheets in stolen sleep at Arundel Castle as he tells the story. Old chimney-sweeps, he confesses, are by no means attractive, but he loves those tender novices "blooming through their nigritude", and finds a mysterious pleasure in the contemplation of their dark operations. Young Harry Revel is just such a youngster and Mr. Couch has much the same tender feeling for him as Charles Lamb would have exhibited. Harry Revel meets with his first great adventure by falling down a tall chimney and stumbling upon the body of a man who has just been murdered. We are always sorry when Mr. Quiller Couch introduces murders, although it is only fair to add that in his treatment of them he always avoids crude violence. But his style has such delicacy and feeling, and he exhibits such lightness of touch in handling his characters and situations that we feel that, mystic at heart as he surely is, his proper province is among the subtler emotions. A man who can appreciate chimney-sweeps is not the man to deal in murders. But we suppose that Mr. Couch felt the difficulty of the task he had imposed upon himself. These are adventures, he thought, and adventures must have action. And so he drags our poor Harry through a number of very thrilling, if not altogether convincing, escapades. Accused of committing a murder he runs away to escape the charge, enlists in a regiment proceeding to the Peninsular war and wins distinction. We have pictures of all these incidents and of the West-country which the author knows and loves so well. But, frankly, Harry Revel ceases to interest us from the time he ceases to be a chimney-sweep.

"*A Branded Name.*" By John Bloundelle-Burton. London : Methuen. 1903. 6s.

We have read many worse novels than "*A Branded Name*"—and many better. In a fly-leaf list Mr. Bloundelle-Burton's stories are divided into "romances" and "novels of to-day" and we cannot help speculating as to which class he will add his latest book. The time is to-day but it is veritable romancing. We are introduced to a beautiful woman, presumably a widow, with a yet more beautiful daughter, and who are going everywhere into the best society thanks to their possession of wealth and loveliness. The elder woman never wears a low-necked dress,

and therein lies the whole secret of the romance—a secret which is closely guarded until a man comes on the scene who knows something and guesses more; then comes a trial of wits with some sensational developments leading up to the close when the mystery of the branded name is made clear a bitter feud is dropped and love is triumphant over all. As a sensational romance it is likely to please many readers, but for our own part we wish that Mr. Bloundelle-Burton would not be quite so fond of the old serial-writers' trick of ending one chapter on a crisis and then commencing the next on a new subject, to close at a similar pitch of excitement; as a commercial dodge to make the reader buy "the next number" it may have its poor excuse in a serial; in the complete book it is irritating and inartistic.

NEW BOOKS AND REPRINTS.

"*Social England in the Seventeenth Century.*" With an Introduction by Mr. Andrew Lang. London : Constable. 1903. 4s. net.

This collection, forming a volume of "*An English Garner*", consists of tracts and pamphlets—practically the journalism of the day—of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, which Professor Arber originally edited. It contains some entertaining papers chiefly of a light character. Not the least curious is Caius' treatise (1536) on English dogs which Abraham Fleming "drew into English" towards the end of the sixteenth century. Portions of John Dennis' "Secrets of Angling" are delightful; and we are glad to renew acquaintance with James I's declaration concerning lawful sports. Papist and Puritan in strait-laced Lancashire alike assailed "Our just and honourable proceedings". Therefore "*The Book of Sports*" declared that after Divine Service it should be lawful for the people to dance, practise archery, leap, vault, or set up maypoles. Mr. Lang's light touch is well suited to comment on some of the papers in this collection, but he comes perilously near the lively rattler now and then. He has an air of flinging in a thing not because it is of value but because something must be said. He identifies Caius' "tumbler" breed of dog with the lurcher of to-day: we do not quarrel with him here, but we wonder why he writes of the lurcher as a night-wandering dog. We should call it as much a poacher's day dog as any the sportsman uses.

"*Letters from a Self-made Merchant to his Son.*" By George Horace Lorimer. London : Methuen. 1903. 6s.

There is in this book just a suggestion of Thackeray. The letters remind us of Mr. Brown's letters to his nephew, though they are American in tone and less genial. The father having made his own way in the world is of course very full of advice, and manages to turn many fairly neat epigrams in the process of conveying it to the son who is expected to get all the good that is to be got out of a University career, a business training and the command of a parent's well-stocked purse. Mr. John Graham never having been to college himself knows all about it, and warns his son: "College doesn't make fools: it develops them. It doesn't make bright men: it develops them". He has however been married and is consequently not less competent to advise on the subject than on a University career. "A violent woman", he says, "drives a fellow to drink but a nagging one drives him crazy". Therefore he suggests the wisdom of "stirring" a woman up a little before marriage in order to see how she behaves. Mr. John Graham's "few appropriate remarks" on many subjects are on the whole, if sometimes a little outre, not unpleasantly cynical.

"*A Popular History of Astronomy during the Nineteenth Century.*" By Agnes M. Clerke. Fourth edition, revised and corrected. London : Black. 1902. 20s. net.

All lovers of astronomy will welcome a new edition of Miss Clerke's well-known treatise. At first sight the fourth edition appears to differ but little from its predecessor; a new preface and the addition of a plate reproducing Sir David Gill's beautiful photograph of the comet of 1901 are all that strike the eye of the casual reader. Closer examination however shows that the book has been carefully revised throughout, and that a very large number of small alterations and additions have been made, dealing for the most part with recent astronomical history, but reflecting also in part less defined but still unmistakable changes in the trend of astronomical opinion. The last few years can hardly be said to have made any striking contribution to astronomical science, their effect has been rather, as Miss Clerke points out, to undermine our belief in the validity of certain theories and in the precision of the accepted numerical estimates of certain fundamental astronomical constants. On the other hand the same period has been exceptionally rich in astronomical events of interest and importance. Thus the discovery of the minor planet Eros, a

(Continued on page 626.)

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rapid succession of eclipses of the sun (attended by excellent weather), the great comet seen in the southern hemisphere two years ago, and the appearance of a new star in Perseus have engaged the attention of a host of professional and amateur astronomers, and have led to the accumulation of a vast number of photographic and visual observations, which must receive in time their proper interpretation and thereby exert their due influence on astronomical theory. Miss Clerke's account of these and other less notable events is unfailingly accurate, judicious and lucid.

"Co-Education." London: Longmans. 1903. 3s. net.

Miss Alice Woods has edited and Mr. Michael E. Sadler has written an introduction to this interesting series of essays by various authors on the question of the education of boys and girls together. It is a movement which is making progress and the healthy tendency is towards assimilating the education of girls to that of boys at least in the earlier years of life. As the editor puts it, the only real questions to be asked are "How long should co-education continue" and "How far is it practicable". The object of the essays is to answer these questions in the light of experience acquired by the several writers. Mr. Sadler, referring to his own opinion that the suitable period may be supposed to end about the thirteenth or fourteenth year, points out that this is not the view of some of the contributors. The little book will enable readers to form their opinions as between the two. Without doubt it is good for boys and girls to be much in one another's society in a friendly unconstrained kind of way and to have many interests and pursuits in common.

"The A B C of Bridge." By Eleanor A. Tennant. Third edition, enlarged and revised. London: Drane. 1903. 1s.

Mrs. Tennant's "A B C of Bridge" has been so successful that an enlarged and revised third edition is now before us. There is an entirely new chapter on leads, which is useful, as it is far better to tell people why they ought to lead certain cards than to give them tables to learn by heart, a process as foolish as learning Euclid by rote. Mrs. Tennant says that it is better to lead a singleton or from two than to open a weak suit of five to the queen, or even a ten ace such as ace queen, or king knave ten, &c. We cheerfully accept this dogma because Mrs. Tennant is our Pope. But we are not sure that all bridgers would agree with her. Indeed the doctrine of bridge leads seems to be in a fluid condition. No bridger should be without the third edition of the A B C either for his own guidance or the confutation of his adversaries.

A very interesting report on the Technical Training of Girls at Home and Abroad has been issued by the Women's Industrial Council. What technical education for girls means, what are its objects and methods, and what its influence is likely to be on the character and family life, are explained and discussed with enthusiasm tempered by knowledge and wisdom: and the little pamphlet is a worthy production of the useful society by which it is published. The countries dealt with are France, Italy, Switzerland, Germany and Belgium, and the condition of women's education in London is considered. The pamphlet should be read if it were only for its refreshing description of a "Scheme for Training Charwomen". All housewives may rejoice over it except those who do not expect to live into the millennium. The report is to be obtained at the offices of the Council, 19 Buckingham Street, Strand.

Among recent reprints of books on English history are two volumes (Constable. 4s. net each) of "Voyages and Travels" edited by Mr. C. Raymond Beazley. These texts, as in the other volumes of the series, are from the collection arranged by Professor Arber from 1877-1890. They come largely from the Hakluyt of 1589, and include the stories of the voyages of that splendid English sailor, adventurer, pirate, call him what we will, Sir John Hawkins. But Sir John fought and sailed better than he wrote. His great adventures are, it must be admitted, rather disappointing in the reading. After Kingsley or Froude Hawkins and often Hakluyt are a little flat.—The fourth volume of "Social England Illustrated" (Cassell. 14s. net) takes us from the succession of James I. to the death of Anne. Mr. A. L. Smith, Mr. Arthur Hassall, Mr. W. H. Hutton, and Mr. Oman are among the chief contributors. The first named writes of course from a great store of knowledge on "The Lines of Division" at the outbreak of the Civil War. He does not cover any new ground, but here and elsewhere is good to read. We note that Mr. Smith considers that Robert Bertie, Earl of Lindsey, "if properly used", would have been the most useful of the Cavalier generals. He was killed however in the first set battle of the war. With Rupert in command of the horse at Edgehill it is doubtful whether Essex's army could have been routed, when once Rupert had driven his charge home; for even if Rupert had been subject to Lindsey he would not have drawn rein in his wild pursuit.—"The Love of an Uncrowned Queen", by W. H. Wilkins (Longmans. 12s. 6d. net) is a cheaper edition of the book on Sophie Dorothea George I's consort. The author states that he has learnt of the existence of a further collection of love letters between Sophie Dorothea and Königsmarck.

THE MAY REVIEWS.

Judge O'Connor Morris opens the "Nineteenth Century" with an attack on the Irish Land Bill none the less noteworthy because its futility is assured. He calls the scheme one of pernicious agrarian quackery; says that such legislation might "elicit a grin from Machiavelli", and declares that Mr. Wyndham's policy is stamped with an audacity worthy of Danton. He predicts that a peasant proprietary can never flourish in Ireland, and having exhausted all the expletives permitted to a judge who has a statesman for accused, he assures us that "if as an Irish landlord who holds a fragment of a great inheritance lost by confiscation and conquest, by a title anterior to the first Norman conquest" he protests "against a measure of this kind, deceitful, treacherous and pernicious alike", he writes without any personal feeling. Hardly less strenuous is the attack in "Blackwood" on the Government's Army Corps scheme. The writer examines the special conditions presented by the British Empire and concludes that the German army system cannot be adapted to the needs of Great Britain. The Army Corps scheme stands condemned in his opinion not merely by its inability to work in conjunction with the Royal Navy. "The War Office scheme proposes three such Army Corps, without making any provision for lines-of-communications troops. Almost inevitably, therefore, there will not be more than two of them acting as field army after a short period of warfare: the other will be broken up in rear. There will be only two Army Corps for the commander-in-chief to carry on active operations with. And it would be far more convenient for him, it would save much useless staff, it would lessen impediments, and it would greatly facilitate organisation in peace-time, if these two Army Corps were simply six Divisions, each self-contained with its heavy guns, its hospitals, its telegraph troops, and so forth. An army of two Army Corps is an absurdity—it is a contravention of one of the fundamental principles upon which military forces in the field are organised." "Blackwood" is not among the victims of the alternating hot fits and cold fits which seize the average man and average politician according as the imperial horizon is overcast or clear. Its criticism is not the outcome of post-panic reflection.

The "Fortnightly" in an able article describing the invasion of England by France in the year 1905 shows the state to which the country had been reduced by the defeat of Mr. Brodrick's army proposals and the cheeseparing anti-imperialism of the Radicals who succeeded to power. To the writer in the "Fortnightly", France is the enemy who has to be reckoned with within our gates; to the "National Review" Germany is the bête noire of the British Empire in every hemisphere. There is no sign in the May number of the "National" that the virulence of Mr. Maxse's Germanophobia is subsiding. The first article in the "National" is a warning to Holland of the un-wisdom of her anti-British attitude. Germany is preparing the way for Holland's incorporation in the empire by an insidious infiltration of German ideas. The Dutch hate Great Britain as they never hated her before because of the Boer War, but they are of course making a mistake and Mr. Maxse's contributor reminds them that "whenever Holland has joined in a league with a great power against England, openly or covertly, it has been Holland who has been made the cat's-paw and has singed its claws and that no country can either conquer them or dare touch their colonies so long as they hold firm to the English alliance". Not love of Holland but dislike of Germany dictates this ingenuous advice.

The fiscal question and the general position of British trade are considered by Mr. Leonard Courtney in the "Nineteenth Century", by Sir Vincent Caillard in the "National Review", and by Mr. Mark Warren in the "Contemporary". Mr. Courtney, whilst an uncompromising free trader even though free trade amounts to no more than free imports, is impartially critical of the crude economics of Mr. Andrew Carnegie and of the less obvious arguments of Mr. J. A. Hobson—free traders both. Mr. Courtney seems to us as wide of the truth in many of his deductions as either Mr. Carnegie or Mr. Hobson. Sir Vincent Caillard, who writes not only for himself but for Dr. Crozier, easily disposes of the defenders of free trade as it at present exists, and advocates anew free trade within the Empire. Mr. Mark Warren is among the optimists and gives elaborate statistics to prove that "contemptuous views of English trade are due to rank ignorance". As it is his object to show that "international trade seems to attest that England's proud position of premier trading nation is by no means in jeopardy", we refrain from any suggestion of ignorance and confine ourselves to the merest hint that Mr. Warren is not a safe guide.

The approach of the centenary of Lytton's birth—May 23—has turned the thoughts of writers in "Blackwood", the "Fortnightly" and "Temple Bar" to a consideration of his work and his place in literature. The cleverest of the three articles is Mr. Francis Gribble's in the "Fortnightly": that of most solid worth perhaps is by the writer of "Musings Without Method" in "Blackwood's"; Mr. Walter Melville's in "Temple Bar" is a pleasant appreciation and résumé of the

leading lines of Lytton's novels. Mr. Gribble treats Lytton as the father of the novelette, as the creator of the bold bad baronet, as an exponent of the doctrine of the conservation of emotional force, to some extent as embodying in his own person and life the characteristics to be found in the leading personalities in his novels and generally as the man who knew. "Blackwood" regards Lytton as the introducer of the great middle and lower class to the drawing-rooms and the talk of the aristocracy. Lytton's popularity was amazing. Even Dickens did not command a more devoted following. It is noteworthy that "Pelham" was published about the time when Disraeli introduced "Vivian Grey" to the novel-reading public. The most interesting part of Mr. Melville's article is a comparison between Lytton and Disraeli in their work and their careers. The critics were hard on the author of "Night and Morning" and "The Caxtons"; Thackeray lampooned him, and the meretricious in his work gave him a fine peg. But he found his consolation in an ever-widening popularity, and the effect of his writings, as "Blackwood" shows, was extraordinary. When Lady Frances told Pelham he looked well in black—a great compliment for only a distinguished man looked well in black—every man who aspired to be considered distinguished adopted black for evening wear, and the fashion of the dress suit was set apparently for all time. Two other anniversaries pending are those of Emerson and Pepys; the former is dealt with by "Blackwood", the latter by the "Fortnightly".

An admirable number is the May "Monthly". Two articles are devoted to side issues of the Bacon-Shakespeare controversy and Mr. E. V. Lucas has a poem in reply to Mr. Henley's Song of Speed. Mr. Lucas has no desire "to get there first", and invites us to reflect:

"Suppose that while the motor pants
You miss the nightingale!"

Mr. Hanbury Williams draws forcible attention to the uncongenial character of the American invasion of Canada, and invokes the British capitalist and the British emigrant to see that the future of the Dominion is British in fact as well as in name. Mr. John Ward indicates some of the wonders of the Sudan and Mr. Silva White describes the emancipation of Egypt.

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CITY AND WEST END PROPERTIES.

THE fifth ordinary general meeting of the City and
West End Properties, Ltd., was held yesterday at the Holborn Restaurant,
Sir A. F. Godson, M.P., Chairman of the Company, presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. H. P. Hoare) having read the notice convening the
meeting,

The Chairman said that the balance, after payment of the dividend on the
preference shares this year, amounted to the sum of £7,059 17s. 10d. Last year it
was slightly less than £7,600. We propose to deal with that together with the
balance of last year's account, £461, making altogether a sum of £8,430 19s. 11d. to
deal with. We propose to pay on the ordinary shares a dividend of 2s. 6d.,
which amounts to £3,787, that figure being practically the same as last year.
We have in accordance with the articles of association put by a sum of
£3,984 to be carried to reserve fund. Last year we put by £3,812. This makes a total
reserve of £18,830, and this leaves a balance of £658 11s. to go forward to
next year. I do not think there is anything that I have particularly to call your
attention to, except when I come to consider the different items in the balance-sheet.
I shall have to state that our unlets have not been in such a satisfactory condition
as last year, but anybody who knows the state of the markets in flats and offices
knows well that, owing to the enormous number of flats that have been going
into the market, some markets have had to wait a little until they could
get fresh tenants. We are also in a rather singular difficulty this year,
in that several long leases fell in at the same time, some of which were
very heavy. On the whole I think that the renewed leases will repay
as well as the old ones did. We fix what we think the fair and real
value of the properties, and we allow the markets to come to us. On the
whole we have found this a very satisfactory way of dealing with the question.
Last year our profits were just under £23,000. This year they are a little over
£23,000, notwithstanding that our unlets were, as I have already told you,
larger than last year. The item for bad debts works out at 6s. 8d. per hundred
pounds, and I think it shows how well the tenants are looked after, and it also
shows that we have tenants worth keeping, and that our losses by bad debts are
exceedingly small. This year we have, looking at the state of the Company, now
written off out of revenue all our ordinary repairs. So instead of writing off £1,100
as last year we are writing off £1,579. If we go on at the same rate for the next
two or three years we shall get entirely rid of that item. This will leave more
money for other purposes of the Company. With regard to gross rentals, they are
£600 more than last year. This was arrived at through economies we were able to
introduce, mainly through permanent improvements. I do not know that there is
anything else I should wish to draw your attention to, but will formally move the
adoption of the report.

This was seconded by Mr. Thomas Boyce, the managing director, and the
motion was then put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

The Chairman then moved that a dividend of half a crown per share be paid on
the ordinary share capital of the Company.

Colonel Boyd seconded this, and it was carried unanimously.

A similar motion was carried concerning the preference dividend.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman and directors terminated the proceedings.

BIRRIM VALLEY GOLD MINING.

THE third ordinary general meeting of the Birrim Valley Gold Mining and Dredging Company, Limited, was held on Monday, at the Institute of Chartered Accountants, Moorgate Place, E.C., under the presidency of Mr. George Macdonald (the Chairman of the Company).

The Secretary (Mr. Charles S. Good) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said: Before moving the formal adoption of the report and accounts, I should like to go over, in as few words as possible, what we are doing in West Africa, and the first point of interest is with regard to the road, about which there has been a great deal of talk, and the means of transport. Some of the shareholders have written to us, saying they think there has been a great deal of unnecessary delay in getting to work; but they seem to have forgotten that when we tackled this part of West Africa we were trying to open up a part of the Gold Coast Colony that was practically virgin ground as regards European enterprise, and that, in order to get at and convey goods to it, we had first of all to make a channel by which we could convey them, and the company of which this is an offspring undertook to open up a road from Accra to Kyebi, which covers a distance of about 62 miles, a distance half as far again as the railway constructed by the Government from Sekondi to Tarkwa, and which cost a million of money. The Goldfields of Eastern Akim undertook to open up a road from the sea-coast to the town of Kyebi, which is to be the centre of operations in Eastern Akim. The first 26 miles of that road was an open path, constructed by the Government some years ago, but which was in such a bad state of repair that the Government approached us, and asked if we would undertake the reconstruction of it for a certain sum per mile. We gladly did so, and, in addition, agreed to complete a road from Sansame up to Kyebi—a distance of 35 or 37 miles—in order that we might have a channel of communication between the seaboard and the headquarters of the Company's properties. By the advice of our engineers, while this road was under construction, we were having made various traction engines for use on that road, and at the same time we placed orders for different machinery to treat this ground with a firm of the best standing and repute not only in this country but anywhere in the world. We were doing three things at the same time in the hope that when completed we should have such a system at our command as would enable us to overcome any difficulties which might arise—the road construction, construction of traction engines, and the manufacture of our machinery. In a country like West Africa, you may make a road to-day, but unless it is in constant use you may visit it soon afterwards, and from its appearance might think that no road had been made at all, the weeds being of such a nature and so strong and quick in their growth that all the cutting down done during the season very soon becomes again overgrown. But although that was the case, it was not so with regard to the big trees that we had successfully removed by uprooting. Mr. Clay reports that, although the road is not in such a state as we might all wish, it is quite capable of doing the work for which we intended it, and so much is he impressed with the possibilities of what this Company may achieve, that after his return to this country, and he had presented his report to the directors, he wished to return to the West Coast in the short space of one week; but owing to the arrangements which we had made with him, and the necessary work before he could return again, we had to extend his one week to a fortnight, and as I was saying, so impressed is Mr. Clay with the possibility of what the Birrim Valley may ultimately accomplish that he sailed again to take charge of the Company's affairs on Saturday last, and he has entered into an agreement with this Company and the Goldfields of Eastern Akim to carry out the operations there for a space of one year without returning to this country, during which time he hopes, not only to get the whole of the machinery transported from Accra, up to its site upon the Birrim Valley; but he is also pretty sanguine that ultimately he will get the dredge erected and we shall get to work. As to what may be the future of this part, they say that imitation is the sincerest flattery, and following the operations we have already commenced, I know as a fact that another order has been placed for a steam dredge with the Risdon Iron Locomotive Works very similar to ours, on the understanding that they shall not only construct it, but that they shall transport it to Accra, and carry it from Accra up into Eastern Akim, to another portion of the Birrim Valley, and that there they shall erect it and stay with it until it is doing the work in a satisfactory manner. If they are successful with that one dredge, I know as a fact that they are promised an order for five more. Now, I think other people would not go to such an expense as I have foreshadowed in these few remarks if they did not believe, like the directors of your Company, that ultimately large quantities of gold are to be recovered from not only our part of the Birrim Valley, but from other parts belonging to other companies. Although we have been, as it were, temporarily stopped in our actual mining operations, we have been prospecting other parts of the territory held by this Company, and some time ago it became necessary, on account of certain finds that had been made, to part with half our property, which was known as the Kyebi lease, to a company called the Kyebi Lands Corporation, and a certain amount—£20,000, I think—was privately put up in order to exploit the land that was held under that sub-lease. Close to the town of Kyebi a reef was discovered running in a westerly direction, which not only comes to the boundary of the Kyebi Lands property, but into our Panno property. It is only fair, I think, to assume that if one end of the reef gives us an average of 6 oz. to one ton of quartz from seven samples, the extension of it towards the east may possibly give us a similar result when we come to thoroughly open it up. Therefore, in addition to the value of our alluvial ground, we have, since the last meeting of the shareholders, been able to locate an extension of the reef found upon the Kyebi Lands property, existing in our Panno Concessions, which, I think, is very satisfactory news. With regard to the accounts, we started with a capital of £50,000. That has gone in paying for the dredge, which cost us nearly £9,000, the timber requisite for it, a Thormcroft steam wagon, and also a wood-working machine, in order to cut the wood properly. That took practically half our money, and the other items are duly set forth in the accounts, and scarcely call for any explanation. On the other side you find that we have sundry creditors down at £2,067. We have no trade creditors; we owe nothing whereby anybody can come in and claim or take a lien upon our property, because, although this amount is down as a debt, it is owing to the Goldfields of Eastern Akim, which, when the Birrim Valley had run short of money, at once came to the rescue in order that the operations of the Company might be continued. Now, with regard to the future, we have made such an arrangement that we shall not have to ask our shareholders for a penny. I am one of the largest shareholders, and I have bought shares quite recently, and intend to go on buying more. The arrangement we have made is this: we have powers under our articles of association, if need be, to issue further stock, to borrow money, or to raise money by issuing debentures. Arrangements have been made by which we propose to create a debenture issue of £10,000. We propose to at once issue £6,000 of this £10,000, and I am pleased to be able to tell you that the whole of the £6,000 has been taken up, so that we shall not require to ask our shareholders for any further money at present. It will be for the shareholders to determine whether they will care to participate in part of that debenture issue upon the same lines as those who are willing to take the whole. We propose to create a debenture issue of £10,000 at 5 per cent, redeemable at any time within two years at 105, or exchangeable for ordinary shares at par at any time during the two years. We estimate that the £6,000 will be enough to last us twelve months from date, and then we shall be able to see whether it is necessary to issue the remaining £4,000. I, for one, when the proposition is put to me, shall take my proportion of debentures; other shareholders may think the opposite, and say they will leave it alone. Whether the shareholders take it or not, the Company will have £6,000 to work with, and I think that is the great thing after all. We shall not have to stop our operations, but, on the contrary, we shall be able to continue them with further money in our bank. I will now formally move: "That the report and accounts, as presented, be adopted."

Mr. H. J. Brown seconded the motion, which after discussion was unanimously agreed to.

ESTATE, FINANCE AND MINES.

THE ordinary general meeting of the shareholders of the Estate, Finance and Mines Corporation, Limited, was held on Thursday at Salisbury House, London Wall, E.C., Mr. W. A. Wills (Chairman of the Company) presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. G. T. Ware) read the notice calling the meeting and the auditors' report.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report, said that "lands, buildings, and shares in similar undertakings" in South Africa stood in the books at a cost of over £196,000, of which £192,000 represented town property situated in the heart of Johannesburg. Although this property only cost the Company £192,000, they were actually paying taxes on municipal rating of £240,000, and a recent estimate made by a Johannesburg office fixed the value at £260,000. A cable had just been received stating that the rentals last month were over £3,000. This was in spite of the fact that the Company's largest block was absolutely unproductive. He could not speak in such happy terms of the lands, buildings, &c., in England, which were set down at £109,000, but these would in future attain a high value. This net position, as a whole, was that the assets, in the opinion of the board—the unanimous opinion of the board—certainly represented a larger amount than the figures at which they stand in our books, and, after allowing a very liberal deduction for depreciations on doubtful debts, they would be well on the safe side if they regarded the assets as worth £100,000 more than they were worth at the date of the annual meeting two years ago. Of course, the outlook of the Company, being a finance company, was so intimately associated with the general future of South Africa that he thought he ought to say a few words in relation thereto. The essential fact was that South Africa was so wonderfully endowed in its mineral wealth that he did not think anything could prevent a very great commercial future for the country, and, sooner or later, that fact must reflect upon the stagnation of the South African markets, from which this Company and all similar companies had suffered so much during the past few years. He should like to acknowledge with pleasure that the report has been very favourably received by several shareholders who had written to them, more particularly Baron Mechin, representing a large contingent of Paris shareholders.

Mr. John Seear seconded the motion, and dealt at considerable length with the labour question. He pointed out that at the close of the war, after some years of hard work, the Kaffir returned home to enjoy his earnings. The offer of about half the wages he had been receiving was not likely to inspire him with much zest to return to the Rand. The reduction of wages after the war was an ill-considered and short-sighted policy on the part of those interested in the mining industry. The masters had, however, seen the error of their ways, and had made whatever reparation they could. The result was that there was as much labour available now as there was before the war. He hoped that every effort would be made to get native labour before Chinese labour was tried in Africa. Little more than a year had elapsed since the termination of the war, and already great strides had been made in the direction of reducing the cost of mining. He believed that the cost of labour would be reduced, but the first essential was to get plenty of it.

The motion was adopted, and a vote of thanks to the Chairman terminated the proceedings.

THE CROWN REEF GOLD MINING CO., LTD.,
JOHANNESBURG, TRANSVAAL.

The Directors' report on the working operations of the Company for the Quarter ending 31st March, 1903, shows the total profit earned to be £60,372 7s. 11d. 46,016 tons were milled during the quarter, the declared output for the period being 28,305,935 fine ozs. = 12,302 dwt., per ton milled.

A Dividend of 5s per cent, equal to 11s per share, was declared by the Board on the 17th March, for the half-year ending the 31st March, 1903, payable to all Shareholders registered in the Company's books on the 4th April. Holders of Share Warrants to Beaver will receive payment of the Dividend on the presentation of Coupon No. 15, either at the London Office, 120 Bishopsgate Street Within, E.C., or at the Head Office, Crown Reef, Johannesburg, any time after the 5th May. In all cases Coupons must be left four clear days for examination. The Thirteenth Annual Ordinary General Meeting of Shareholders will be held in the Board Room of Exploration Buildings, Johannesburg, on Tuesday, the 9th June, at 9.45 A.M. The Transfer Books will be closed from the 1st to the 9th June, both days inclusive.

ROBINSON GOLD MINING COMPANY, LIMITED.

From the Directors' Monthly Report:

EXPENDITURE AND REVENUE.

	EXPENDITURE.			Per ton Milled.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Mining Account (including Maintenance)	9,758	5	3	0	12	6833
Milling Account (including Maintenance)	2,912	5	5	0	3	915
Vanning Account (including Maintenance)	293	7	9	0	4	535
Cyaniding and Chlorination Accounts (including Maintenance)	1,870	8	1	0	2	4910
General Maintenance Account	30	19	8	0	0	479
General Charges	1,408	12	6	0	1	9773
Development Account	16,273	18	8	1	11	545
Machinery, Plant and Buildings	936	2	3	0	1	499
Profit on Working	17,673	13	5	1	2	9781
	29,936	4	6	1	18	6568
	£47,599	17	11	£3	3	749

	REVENUE.			Per ton Milled.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Gold Accounts—						
From Mill	30,914	2	9	1	18	11018
" Tailings	12,224	8	10	0	15	8953
" Own Concentrates	4,546	10	6	0	5	275
Sundry Revenue—	46,985	2	1	3	0	6246
Rents, estimate of Interest on Cash on hand and Profits on Purchased Concentrates	614	15	10	0	0	9503
	£47,599	17	11	£3	3	749

THE NEW EGYPTIAN COMPANY, LIMITED.

DIRECTORS.

His Highness PRINCE HUSSEIN KAMIL (Chairman).
 His Highness PRINCE IBRAHIM HILMY.
 THE EARL OF CHESTERFIELD, P.C.
 His Excellency BOGHOS PACHA NUBAR.
 Sir CHARLES B. EUAN-SMITH, K.C.B., C.S.I., &c.
 Sir GERALD FITZGERALD, K.C.M.G.
 EDWARD DICEY, Esq., C.B.
 Commandeur A. CLICIAN.

MANAGING DIRECTORS.

Messrs. OCHS BROTHERS, London and Paris.

MANAGER IN EGYPT.—Sir JOHN G. ROGERS, K.C.M.G.

TECHNICAL ADVISER.

J. S. BERESFORD, Esq., C.I.E., M.E., M.Inst.C.E.

GENERAL STAFF.

CAIRO.—J. VAAST, Technical Director; J. DEMPSTER, Engineer-in-Chief, Reclamation Works; TH. NASSIF, Local Secretary.

LONDON.—THOMAS DAY, Secretary.

REGISTERED AND HEAD OFFICE.

34 Clement's Lane, Lombard Street, London, E.C.

PARIS OFFICE.

7 Rue Meyerbeer.

CAIRO OFFICE.—Sharia Kasr-el-Nil.

REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS

To be submitted at the Third Annual General Meeting, to be held on the 19th May, 1903.

The Directors have the pleasure to submit to the Shareholders the Third Annual Report and Balance Sheet for the financial year ended the 31st July, 1902, and are again able to record a steady progress of the Company's business in all directions.

NILE RECLAMATION CONCESSION.—The constant attention of the Board, during the year under review, has been given to the Nile Reclamation Works, which are being carried on by the Company under the agreement with the Egyptian Government, and directed by Mr. Dempster (Engineer-in-Charge), as fully explained in former reports. Mr. Beresford, C.I.E., M.Inst.C.E., who was appointed in 1902 by the Board as Technical Adviser to the Company, has been engaged in Egypt, from early in November until the middle of March, in inspecting these works and advising as to future sites to be undertaken for reclamation. The following list gives particulars of the sites taken up, so far, and their positions are indicated on the sketch map attached to this report:—

Name of site undertaken.	Area Reclaimable.	Area Feddans.	Perchased.	Total Area.	Let.	Area Feddans.
Sohag	420	—	—	420	77	—
Garf Sarhan	490	182	672	329	—	—
Ro'ah	390	—	—	390	14	—
Sheikh Fadl	360	—	—	360	45	—
Saadat	660	230	890	230	—	—
	2,320	419	2,732	690	—	—

In anticipation of reclamation works being undertaken at Kolossa, a further 623 feddans of land have been purchased at this site. The lands purchased have been acquired in order to make the reclaimed sites more valuable, whether for future sale or rental; and the same course will be followed, where advisable, as regards other sites selected for reclamation.

Of the first four mentioned sites, altogether, 278 feddans have already been sufficiently reclaimed to enable the Company to let same at fair rentals; the other lands shown as let are those purchased. Operations on Saadat site are now being commenced, and further sites have been and are being surveyed, and will, on final approval by Mr. Beresford, be subsequently taken up. Owing to the abnormal lowness of the Nile during the last flood season—the lowest on record for many years—the works for the past year have shown small progress, so far as the actual reclamation is concerned; but it is reasonable to expect that, with a normal Nile, a great improvement will be shown in the results obtained. Should the quantity of land actually reclaimed realise the moderate anticipations of the Company's engineers, the results of the undertaking will be very satisfactory to the Company. It must be borne in mind, however, that these works are, as yet, to a certain extent experimental, and that it must take some time for the lands reclaimed to arrive at complete maturity. Constant and careful control is being given to ensure that the works are carried out with the desired economy and efficiency. Due regard is being given to the bona fide rights of the villagers in the vicinity of the Company's works, and, in any case of difficulty, the Company is being assisted by the Government to come to an agreement with the villagers. It may be noted here that, as stated by our expert, who has just returned from Egypt after an exhaustive inquiry into our operations, good crop-bearing land in Egypt, with facilities for irrigation, fetches at present £640 to £670 a feddan on the left bank, and from £630 to £640 on the right bank of the river, where canal irrigation is usually not available. It is not yet possible to estimate the cost per feddan of the land reclaimed by the New Egyptian Company; but it is far below the above figures. Most of the land at present reclaimed is on the left bank, to which our operations are principally directed.

DAIRA SANIEH LANDS.—Having received favourable expert advice on the subject and on recommendation of Directors in Egypt, whose local experience is of great value to the Company, the Board decided to conclude the purchase of 2,323 feddans of land from the Daira Sanieh Company—a feddan is equal to 1,098 English acres. This purchase, taken into account with the land now being acquired in connection with the Reclamation Works, secures to this Company a large landed interest in Egypt. The payments for the above have been arranged on the most favourable terms, by instalments extending over several years, and the land now acquired should certainly fetch a very much higher price when the time arrives at which it can be offered for sale.

LAKE MENZALEH CONCESSION.—The Board have, further, entered into a provisional arrangement with the Egyptian Government, having for its object the establishment of a service of steamers and freight barges on Lake Menzaleh, in order to open up communication between Damietta, Matarieh, and Port Said, as also with the important commercial centre of Mansourah, by a navigable channel to be dredged across the lake between the first three places, and by a canal connecting the Nile and the lake at Damietta. The importance of this project is due to the recent decision of the Egyptian Government to extend the Government system of railways to Port Said. This will inevitably result in the rapid development of Port Said as an import and export centre, and the most direct and cheapest route for all products of the north-eastern portion of the Delta will be by the new water route which the Company is, by its concession, authorised to open up. The project is now being carefully studied by the Company's engineers in Egypt. The concession, which the Company has the option of taking up until the 1st February, 1904, will, if finally concluded, give to the Company a monopoly of steam communication on the lake for thirty years.

SUDAN DEVELOPMENT AND EXPLORATION COMPANY, LIMITED.—With regard to the operations in the Sudan of the Sudan Development and Exploration Company, Limited, in which your Company, together with the New African and Oceana Consolidated Companies, is largely interested, the directors are able to report that a regular boat service has now been instituted on the White Nile, from Khartoum southwards, with the following fleet:—One passenger steamer (s.s. "Gordon Pasha"); two steam barges ("Atbara" and "Kerri"); two towing barges; one sailing boat. This service, as well as a boat-building and repairing yard at Halfaya, near Khartoum, has been established under the direction of Mr. Edward F. Hall, who has been appointed the Company's Manager in the Sudan, and whose previous experience in the Central African transport business has enabled him to rapidly organise the Company's transport service. Mr. Hall is supported by an experienced staff. A first contract is being entered into for the transport of goods and material up the White Nile to the Congo Free State.

Trading operations are also being commenced by the Company in the Sudan, which, it is expected, will not only prove profitable in themselves, but will also help in obtaining a more regular flow of transport business for the steamer service. The information to hand from the various districts of the Sudan shows that there is, as

was anticipated, a fair opening for the judicious investment of capital in that country. This matter is now being considered, and the Board hope, should they succeed in obtaining a legitimate share of support from the Government, to take a substantial part in promoting trade and generally developing the country.

ABYSSINIA.—With regard to the Company's large interest in the Ethiopian Railways, your Directors are again able to report that good progress has been made, and the result of this Company's participation has been satisfactory. This railway has now reached, according to latest advices, 365 kilometres, thus, so far, realising the desire of the Emperor Menelik to have an Abyssinian line of railway, starting from the Red Sea, traversing and developing his kingdom throughout, and under his immediate protection. The Board continue to carefully watch the developments; their views as to the way in which railway enterprise and expansion in Abyssinia can most profitably be directed have been previously explained, and every effort will be made to give effect thereto.

GENERAL.—In view of the extension of the Nile Reclamation Works, of the recent purchases of land, and the further investments required by other business in prospect, both in Egypt and the Sudan, the Directors have decided to call up the unpaid balance of the Capital, viz. 10s. per Share, which will be payable as follows: 5s. per Share payable on the 30th June, 1903; 5s. per Share payable on the 30th September, 1903.

Though this Report is drawn up on strictly conservative lines, the Shareholders can judge for themselves the many sources that have been and are being created and developed by the Company, which seem calculated to secure future substantial profits. Negotiations are also now in progress with the Government in Egypt, having for their object the granting of concessions to the Company in connexion with further reclamation, mining, and irrigation schemes. These, if successful, would secure the grant to the Company of considerable tracts of land, to develop which the Capital and organisation of the Company can be usefully devoted.

In conclusion, the Board desire to express their hearty acknowledgments to their President (His Highness Prince Hussein Pasha Kamil), and their other Egyptian colleagues, for the valuable advice and assistance which have always been readily rendered by them, and of which the Board have fully availed themselves. They also wish to record their appreciation of the efforts of Sir John Rogers (their Manager in Egypt) in furthering the interests of the Company.

By order of the Board,

THOMAS DAY, Secretary.

BALANCE-SHEET, 31st July, 1902.

Dr.		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
To Capital—					500,000	0	0
Authorised—					500,000	0	0
500,000 Shares of £1 each							
Issued—					150,000	Shares of £1 each, on which 10s. per	
Share has been called up					150,000	0	0
Less—					8,243	15	0
Amount of Calls unpaid					8,243	15	0
Sundry Creditors					66,756	5	0
Contingent Liabilities to date					24,146	19	1
					90,903	4	1
By Cash at Bankers' and in Hand—							
London and Cairo					3,916	14	10
Sundry Debtors					1,875	13	1
Nile Land Reclamation Schemes—					46,909	13	6
Expenditure on Sites being reclaimed					53,672	18	9
Payment made for Purchase or on Account of					4,741	0	4
Purchase of Land					35,813	19	1
By Office Furniture Account—							
London					31	11	4
Cairo					391	14	11
					423	6	2
Preliminary Expenses Account					1,434	12	6
Income and Expenditure Account—					10,601	7	11
Balance, as per last Account, July 31, 1901							
Salaries, Office and other Expenses: London,							
Paris, and Cairo, £5,770 35. 6d. : Directors' Fees, £1,500—£7,270 35. 6d. Profits realised on Sale of Shares, Interest on Debentures, Rent of Reclaimed Land, &c., £2,271 6s. 7d.					4,998	16	11
					15,600	4	10
Appreciation on Shares					14,371	0	0
					1,229	4	10
					90,903	4	1

CHESTERFIELD, } Directors.
 EUAN-SMITH, } Directors.
 THOMAS DAY, Secretary.

In accordance with the provisions of the Companies Act, 1900, we certify that all our requirements as Auditors have been complied with, and we report to the Shareholders that we have audited the above Balance-sheet with the books and accounts relating thereto in London and the accounts received from Egypt. The shares and investments, £46,000 13s. 6d., are taken at the Directors' valuation, which is £4,371 above cost. Subject to this remark, in our opinion such Balance-sheet is properly drawn up so as to exhibit a true and correct view of the state of the Company's affairs as shown by the books of the Company.

COOPER BROTHERS AND CO., Chartered Accountants, Auditors.

London, 9th May, 1903.

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